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Thomas Baker

Thomas Baker  
Attorney





# THE SHOOTER'S GUIDE:

CONTAINING,  
THE NATURAL HISTORY OF DOGS;  
OF BREEDING POINTERS AND SETTERS, WITH DIRECTIONS  
FOR TRAINING; DISEASES INCIDENT TO DOGS,  
AND METHODS OF CURE, &c.

THE VARIOUS  
*FOWLING-PIECES* CONSIDERED,  
AND THE BEST POINTED OUT, WITH DIRECTIONS FOR  
CHARGING THE SAME:

OF  
SHOOTING IN GENERAL,  
WITH  
INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTAIN  
THE ART OF SHOOTING FLYING.

THE GAME LAWS,  
WITH REMARKS THEREON;  
AND EVERY OTHER INFORMATION WHICH CAN  
BE IN ANY WAY USEFUL OR NECESSARY  
FOR THE  
SHOOTING SPORTSMAN:

TOGETHER WITH  
THE BEST MEANS TO PREVENT POACHING;  
AND  
OCCASIONAL REMARKS  
*On Thornhill's Shooting Directory.*

BY B. THOMAS.

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Nor Fame I slight, nor for her favours call:  
She comes unlook'd for, if she comes at all. POPE.

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LONDON:  
Printed for GALE and CURTIS, 23, Paternoster-row.

1809.

THE  
SHOOTER'S GUIDE.

CONTAINING  
THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS,  
OF THEIR HABITS, AND THE MANNER OF  
THEIR BEING KEPT IN CAPTIVITY, TOGETHER  
WITH A HISTORY OF THE BIRD OF PARADISE.

BY  
JOHN R. SQUIER, ESQ.  
OF THE BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM, AND  
OF THE BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS.

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WITH  
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THE ART OF SHOOTING BIRDS,

THE GAME LAWS,  
WITH REMARKS THEREON;  
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BE IN ANY MANNER OF SERVICE.

THE SHOOTER'S GUIDE,  
TOGETHER WITH  
THE BEST METHOD OF PREPARING BIRDS.

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1807.



# CONTENTS.

THE DOG	1
The Pointer	15
The Setter, or large Land Spaniel	17
The Springer, or Cock Dog	19
Breeding and training of Dogs	21
Training or breaking Dogs for the Gun	30
Diseases incidental to Dogs	42
Laws relating to Dogs	59
The Grouse	64
The Partridge	72
The Pheasant	79
The Woodcock	83
The Snipe	89
The Hare	91
The Fowling-piece	95
Of the Stock, Lock, &c.	115
Gunpowder	119
Of Shot	125
The Proportions of Powder and Shot in the charge	127
Of the Wadding	129
Of Shooting	132
Wild Duck Shooting	155
Game Laws	156
Qualification	161

Certificate for killing Game	- - - - -	169
Destroying Game at improper seasons of the year	- - - - -	176
Destroying Game in the night, on Sundays, or on Christmas-day	- - - - -	178
Destroying the Eggs of winged Game	- - - - -	181
Buying and selling Game	- - - - -	182
Tracing Hares in the Snow, and of taking them in Snares	- - - - -	184
Of the Appointment, Office, and Authority of a Gamekeeper	- - - - -	185
The Law relating to Rabbits	- - - - -	190
The Law relating to Pigeons	- - - - -	192
Method of recovering Penalties under the Game Laws	- - - - -	193
Of committing Trespass in Pursuit of Game	- - - - -	194
Remarks on the Game Laws	- - - - -	197
Technical Terms	- - - - -	213



## INTRODUCTION.

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THE idea of compiling the following pages, arose from a conviction of the want of such a book; and this idea was much strengthened from the perusal of "Thornhill's Shooting Directory;" which, though forming a ponderous quarto volume, contains but little matter worthy the attention of the Shooter. This book was published in 1804, yet it did not fall into my hands till the month of January, 1807; and though I very much disapprove of it, still I shall forbear in this place to point out its defects, as that would, perhaps, appear invidious.

Now, although in the following pages I am not vain enough to suppose myself capable of giving instruction to the experienced Sportsman, yet, I trust, much will be found worthy of his attention. As to the juvenile Shooter (for which this book is more particularly written) I am confident he will find plain and easy rules here laid down, that will enable him, with a little practice, to become a proficient in this delightful recreation.

REPRODUCTION



# THE SHOOTER'S GUIDE.

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## THE DOG.

**I**N treating this subject, it will be highly necessary to make a few prefatory observations ; or, in other words, to speak of dogs generally, as well as of their origin, before we proceed to those kinds which are the immediate object of the shooting sportsmen.

The dog is perhaps the most intelligent of all quadrupeds, one of the most useful servants, and certainly the sincerest friend to man. Independent of his beauty, his vivacity, force, and swiftness, he possesses all those internal qualifications that can conciliate the affections of his master, and induce the tyrant to become a protector. A natural share of courage, an angry and ferocious disposition, render this animal in its savage state a formidable enemy to the different tenants of the forest: these qualities, however, give way to others of a very different complexion in the domestic dog, whose only ambition seems to be a desire to please : he is seen to come crouching along, to lay his force, his courage, and all his useful talents at the feet of his master ; he waits his orders, to which he pays

## THE DOG.

a ready and implicit obedience ; he consults his looks, and frequently a single glance is sufficient to put him in motion ; he is constant in his affections, friendly without interest, and grateful for the slightest favours ; much more mindful of benefits received than injuries offered : far from being driven away by unkindness, he still continues humble, submissive, and imploring, his only hope to be serviceable, his only terror to displease : he licks the hand that has been just lifted to strike him, and at length, by submissive perseverance, disarms resentment. The dog is more faithful even than the most boasted among men. "History," says Mr. Pope, "is more full of examples of the fidelity of dogs than of friends." Homer finely describes the fidelity of Ulysses's dog, Argus, who recognised his master, when none of his friends, nor even Penelope, his wife, was able to discover him.

More docile than man, more obedient than any other animal, he is not only instructed in a short time, but also conforms to the dispositions and manners of those who command him ; he takes his tone from the house he inhabits, like the rest of the domestics : he is disdainful among the great, and churlish among clowns ; always assiduous in seeking his master, and a friend only to those who appear to be the friend of his master ; he is indifferent to all the rest, and declares himself openly against such as seem to be dependent like himself ; he knows a beggar by his cloaths, his voice, or his gestures, and generally forbids his approach with marks of anger. At night, when the guard of the house is committed to his care, he seems proud of the



charge: he continues a watchful sentinel, goes his rounds, scents strangers at a distance, and by barking, gives them notice of his being upon duty; if they attempt to break in upon his territories, he becomes more fierce, threatens, flies at them, fights, and either conquers alone, or alarms those who have most interest in coming to his assistance: however, when he has conquered, he quietly reposes upon the spoil, and abstains from what he has deterred others from abusing.

Hence we see of what importance this animal is to us in a state of nature. Supposing for a moment, that the species had not existed, how could man (without the assistance of the dog) have been able to conquer, tame, and reduce to servitude, every other animal? How could he discover, chase, and destroy, those that were noxious to him? In order to be secure, and become master of all animated nature, it was necessary for him to begin, by making a friend of part of them, to attach such of them to himself by kindness and caresses as seemed fittest for obedience and active pursuit. Thus the first art employed by man was in conciliating the favour of the dog; and the fruits of this art were the conquest and peaceable possession of the earth.

The generality of animals have greater agility, greater swiftness, and more formidable arms from nature than man; their senses, and particularly that of smelling, are far more perfect; the having gained, therefore, a new assistant, especially one whose scent is so exquisite as that of the dog, was the gaining a new sense, a new faculty, which before was wanting. The machines and instruments which we have imagined for perfecting

## THE DOG.

the rest of the senses, do not approach to that already prepared by nature, by which we are enabled to find out every animal, though unseen, and thus destroy the noxious, and use the serviceable.

The dog, thus useful in himself, taken into a participation of empire, exerts a degree of superiority over all animals that require human protection. The flock and herd are even more obedient to his voice than to that of the shepherd or the herdsman; he conducts them, guards them, and keeps them from capriciously seeking danger, and their enemies he considers as his own: nor is he less useful in the pursuit, when the sound of the horn, or the voice of the huntsman, calls him to the field—he testifies his pleasure by every little art, and pursues, with unwearied perseverance, those animals, which, when taken, he must not expect to divide. The desire of hunting is indeed natural in him, as well as in his master, since war and the chase are the only employment of savages. All animals that live upon flesh hunt by nature: the lion and the tiger, whose force is so great that they are sure to conquer, hunt alone, and without art; while the wolf, the fox, and the wild dog, hunt in packs, assist each other, and share the spoil. But when education has perfected this talent in the domestic dog; when he has been taught by men to repress his ardour, to measure his motions, and not to exhaust his force by too sudden an exertion of it, he then hunts with method, and generally with success.

Although the wild dog, such as he was before he came under the protection of man, is at present utterly



unknown, no such animal being now to be found in any part of the world, yet there are many that, from a domestic state, have turned savage, and intirely pursue the dictates of nature. In those deserted and uncultivated countries, where dogs are found wild, they seem intirely to partake of the disposition of the wolf; they unite in large bodies, and attack the most formidable animals of the forest—the congar, the panther, and the bison. In America, to which place they were originally brought by the Europeans, and abandoned by their masters, they have multiplied to such a degree, that they spread in packs over some parts of those extensive Continents, and attack all other animals—even man himself does not pass without insult. In those places, they are treated in the same manner as all carnivorous animals, and killed as often as opportunities occur: notwithstanding they are easily tamed; when taken home and treated with kindness, they quickly become submissive and familiar, and continue faithfully attached to their masters; different in this respect from the fox and the wolf, who, though taken ever so young, are gentle only while cubs, and, as they grow old, give themselves up to their natural appetites of rapine and cruelty. It short it may be asserted, that the dog is the only animal whose fidelity remains uushaken; the only one who knows his master and the friends of the family—the only one who instantly distinguishes a stranger—the only one that knows his name, and answers to the domestic call—the only one who seems to understand the nature of subordination, and seeks assistance—the only one who, when he misses his master,

testifies his loss by his complaints—the only one whose natural talents are evident, and whose education is always successful.

Thus as the dog is the most complying in his disposition, so also is he the most susceptible of change in his form:—The varieties of this animal being too numerous, for even the most careful describer to mention. Climate, food, and education, all make strong impressions upon him, and produce alterations in his shape, colour, hair, size, and indeed every thing but his nature. The same dog taken from one climate and brought to another, seems to become another animal; but different breeds are as much separated to all appearance, as any two animals the most distinct in nature; nothing appears to continue constant with them but their internal conformation:—different in the figure of the body, in the length of the nose, in the shape of the head, in the length and direction of the ears and tail, in the colour, the quantity and the quality of the hair; in short, different in every thing but that make of the parts which serve to continue the species, and keep the animals distinct from all others. It is this peculiar conformation, this power of producing an animal that can re-produce, that marks the kind, and approximates forms that at first seem no way formed for conjunction.

From this single consideration, therefore, we may at once pronounce all dogs to be of one kind; but which of this is the original of all the rest, is not easy to determine.

The celebrated Buffon, supposes the *Shepherd's Dog* to have been the original stem, whence have sprung the

present numerous branches.—Goldsmith has adopted the same opinion. This is that dog with long coarse hair, on all parts except the nose, pricked ears, and a long nose; which is common enough among us, and receives his name from his being principally employed in guarding and attending on sheep. This indeed seems to be the primitive animal of his kind; and we shall be more inclined to this opinion, if we attend to the different characters which climate produces in the animal, and the different races of dogs which are propagated in every country: and, in the first place, if we examine those countries which are still savage, or but half civilized, where it is most probable the dog, like his master, has received but few impressions from art, we shall find the shepherd's dog, or one much resembling him, still prevailing amongst them. The dogs, that have run wild in America and in Congo, approach this form. The dog of Siberia, Lapland, and Iceland, of the Cape of Good Hope, of Madagascar, Madeira, Calicut, and Malabar, have all a long nose, pricked ears, and resemble the shepherd's dog very nearly. In Guinea the dog very speedily takes this form; for at the second and third generation the animal forgets to bark, his ears and his tail become pointed, and his hair drops off, while a coarser thinner kind comes in its place. This sort of dog is also to be found in the temperate climates in great abundance, particularly among those who, preferring usefulness to beauty, employ an animal that requires very little instruction to be serviceable.

The shepherd's dog, transported into the tempe-



rate climates, and among people intirely civilized, such as England, France, and Germany, will be divested of his savage air, his pricked ears, his rough, long, and thick hair; and from the influence of climate and food alone, will become either a matin, a mastiff, or a hound: these three seem to be the immediate descendants of the former, and from them the other varieties have been produced.

The grey matin hound, which is in the second branch transported to the north, becomes the great Danish dog; and this, sent to the south, becomes the greyhound of different sizes. The same, transported into Ireland, the Ukraine, Tartary, Epirus, and Albania, becomes the great wolf dog, known by the name of the Irish wolf dog.

The mastiff, which is the third branch, and chiefly a native of England, when transported into Denmark, becomes the little Danish dog; and this little Danish dog, sent into the tropical and warm climates, becomes the animal, known by the name of the Turkish dog, without hair. All these races, with their varieties, are produced by the influence of climate, joined to the different food, education, and shelter, which they have received among mankind. All other kinds, therefore, may be considered as mongrel races; and as these are extremely numerous, and very different in different countries, it would be almost endless to mention the whole; besides, nothing but experience can ascertain the reality of these conjectures, although they have so much the appearance of probability; and, until that gives more certain information, it will not be necessary

to enter more minutely into this subject, at least in this place.

It was the strong similitude of the dog and the wolf, both externally and internally, that first led some able naturalists to consider them as the same animal, and to regard the wolf as the dog in its savage state of freedom; however, I believe, this opinion is now exploded:—The natural antipathy these two animals bear to each other; the longer time which the wolf goes with young than the dog (the former going over a hundred days, and the latter about sixty); the longer period of life too in the wolf than the dog (the former living twenty years, and the latter about fourteen); all sufficiently point out a distinction, and draw a line that must for ever keep them asunder.

The wolf, although apparently modelled upon the same plan as the dog, yet only offers the reverse of the model. If his form be similar, his nature is so different, that he only preserves the ill qualities, without any of his good ones. Indeed their dispositions are so perfectly reverse, that no two animals can have a more perfect antipathy to each other. A young dog shudders at the sight of a wolf; he even shuns his scent; which, though unknown, is so repugnant to his nature, that he comes trembling to seek protection near his master; while a dog who is older, and knows his strength, bristles up at the sight, manifests every symptom of animosity, attacks him with courage, endeavours to put him to flight, and does every thing in his power to rid himself of a presence so perfectly hateful. These

two animals never meet without flying or fighting,\*—fighting too for life or death, shewing no mercy on either side. If the wolf prove victorious, he tears and devours his enemy; the dog, on the contrary, is more generous, and contents himself with his victory: he does not seem to think that the body of a dead enemy smells well; he leaves him where he falls, to serve as food for birds of prey, or for other wolves, since they devour each other;—and whenever one wolf happens to be desperately wounded, the rest track him by his blood, and are sure to shew him no mercy. The dog, even in his savage state, is not cruel: he is easily tamed, and continues firmly attached to his master: the wolf, when taken young, sometimes becomes tame, but has never any attachment.

The ancients asserted that the wolf and the dog would breed together; and a dealer in dogs once shewed the compiler a mongrel animal, which he assured him was the offspring of such a conjunction: it is true, it bore a great resemblance to the wolf: its eye run slantingly upwards, as in the wolf, apparently of the same colour, and the visage altogether manifested much of that malignant savage disposition so conspicuous in the countenance of the wolf:—notwithstanding this I am inclined to doubt the dog-dealer's assertions. That very able and truly celebrated naturalist, Buffon, assures us that all his endeavours to in-

\* It is a singular circumstance that the race of European dogs shew as great an antipathy to the American species, as they do to the wolf.



duce the dog and the wolf to engender were ineffectual. He bred up, for this purpose, a young wolf, which was taken in the woods at two months old, with a matin dog of the same age; they neither of them knew any other individual of their kind, not even any other man but he who had the charge of feeding them; in this manner they were kept for three years without constraining or tying either of them up. During the first year the young animals played with each other, and seemed mutually fond. In the second they began to dispute about their victuals, although more was given them than they could use; and the quarrel always began on the wolf's side. The dog was the strongest of the two; but, as it was more gentle, in order to secure him from the attacks of the wolf, he had a collar put round his neck. In the third year, the quarrels of these ill-paired associates became more vehement, and their combats more fierce, and frequent; the wolf therefore had a collar put about its neck as well as the dog, who began to be more fierce and unmerciful. During the first two years, neither seemed to testify the least tendency towards engendering; and it was not till the end of the third, that the wolf, which was the female, shewed the natural desire, but without abating either in its fierceness or obstinacy. This appetite indeed rather increased than repressed their animosity; they became every day more untractable and ferocious, and nothing was heard between them but the sounds of rage and resentment. In less than three weeks they both became remarkably lean, without ever approaching each other unless to combat. At length their quarrels

## THE DOG.

became so desperate that the dog killed the wolf; and he was soon after obliged to be killed himself, for upon being set at liberty, he flew upon every animal he met; fowls, dogs, and even men themselves, not escaping his savage fury.

The fox is an animal resembling the dog, both externally and internally, and too common in this country to need a separate and particular description. Buffon tried the same experiment with foxes with no better success; and yet there are numbers of animals at present in England, the reputed offspring of a dog and a fox. I have been assured, by persons whose veracity I had no reason to doubt, that the fox and the dog will engender. Buffon, however, seems to think that their natures are too opposite ever to provoke natural desire.

Thornhill, in his Shooting Directory, asserts that the wolf and the dog (as well as the fox) will engender together, and seems very anxious to controvert the authority of Buffon. This gentleman, however, only brings forward hearsay, or second-hand evidence; and therefore we must regard what he says accordingly.

The generic characters of the dog are these:—he has six cutting teeth in the upper jaw; those at the sides longer than the intermediate ones, which are labated: in the under jaw there are also six cutting teeth, the lateral being labated; there are four canine teeth, one on each side both above and below, and six or seven grinders.

It is very natural to conclude, from the structure of the dog's teeth, that he is a carnivorous animal; but he will not eat indiscriminately of every animal substance:

he will refuse the bones of a goose, crow, or hawk, as well as the flesh of his own species; but he will eat most other animal substances, whether fresh or putrid. He will eat fruits, succulent herbs, and bread of all sorts. His digestive powers are so great, that he draws nourishment from the hardest bones. He is subject to sickness, especially at the beginning of summer, and before bad weather; and, in order to excite vomiting, he eats the blades of grass, but most particularly of the bearded wheat grass, or the rough cock's foot grass, which in general causes him to discharge the contents of his stomach, and consequently gives him relief. The dog eats very greedily: and, if allowed, will gorge so as to be scarcely able to contain himself, especially of horse-flesh. If he steals any thing, he seems conscious of the crime, and generally slinks away with his tail between his legs; he does the same, when threatened with angry words, and, indeed, whenever he is aware of having acted improperly.

This animal drinks, by lapping with his tongue, frequently, and in small quantities. A dog will run into the water, in hot weather, to cool himself, especially setters and pointers when hard hunted.

His excrements, especially after eating bones, are hard and white; and were formerly in great repute among physicians as a septic, but I believe are now disregarded; if they fall on vegetables, they generally destroy them: the same may be said of his urine. The dog, however, is particular in his places, and mostly throws his dung where it cannot do injury;—thistles, high stones, and the roots of trees, seem to be his fa-



avourite places for this purpose. Till he is a year old, he crouches his hinder parts for the purpose of ejecting his urine, which, falling upon leather, will cause it to rot. After twelve months, he throws out his urine sideways, by raising his leg against a wall, tree, &c.; and, whenever he comes to a place where a dog has ejected urine before him, he never fails to do the same. When he is fatigued, his tongue hangs out of his mouth; but he never perspires. When he is about to lie down, he turns himself round several times; and, if uneasy, will rise and alter his position. He sleeps little, and in his sleep seems to hear as acutely as if awake: he may be frequently heard to whimper, while asleep, which is an indication of dreaming.

As to his sense of smelling:—it is well known, that, in this respect, he is surpassed by no animal whatever, and is a circumstance with which every person is so well acquainted, that it will be unnecessary for me to say more on this subject.

According to some modern naturalists there are twenty-three varieties of this animal; and I am confident they might be branched out into many more. However as a list of these varieties, would perhaps afford but little amusement, and certainly be of no service, to the shooting sportsman, I shall here close the present chapter.

## THE POINTER

Is of foreign extraction, and frequently called the *Spanish pointer*. The great utility and excellence of this dog, in shooting partridges, moore-game, heath-game, &c. is well known. The pointer is now naturalized in this country, which indeed has long boasted famous dogs of this description :—for some years back numbers of sportsmen have paid great attention to preserving and improving this breed, and have been well recompensed for their trouble. This dog is gentle, docile, and timid ; and remarkable for the aptness and facility with which it receives instruction.

The pointer mostly approved of is of the middle size ; well made, active, light, and strong :—it will easily be perceived that a dog of this description will bear a vast deal of hunting ; whereas a small one, however good he may be, is by no means calculated for a strong piece of turnips or potatoes, long and stiff stubbles, or mountains, where the heath is strong and long : on the contrary, it is generally supposed that a large dog is much sooner tired by his own weight than one of the middle size. I am willing to allow that middle sized dogs, in general, are to be preferred, and indeed I would by all means recommend them ; but at the same time I would not refuse a large dog, for no other reason than because he was *large* ; for however large a dog may be, it often happens that he has strength according to his bulk ; and I have

seen many instances of large dogs being able to stand a vast deal of hunting, and very good ones also.

With respect to colour, much perhaps may depend on fancy ; and no doubt there are excellent dogs of all colours ; those however, at present most esteemed, are the liver or brown and white. A white dog is to be preferred on account of his good temper, and being naturally less subject to disease than others, which arises from the predominancy of phlegm in his constitution ; he has an excellent nose, is a curious hunter, is full of stratagems and cunning, and may be seen at a great distance. Pointers of a brown or liver colour are generally good ones ; but they are certainly difficult to be seen at a great distance, particularly on a mountain, which gives the sportsman sometimes a vast deal of trouble ; at the same time, a brown dog will bring you nearer the game ; and is particularly useful when birds will not lie well : birds will suffer a brown dog to approach them much nearer than a white one, which arises solely from his colour approximating more nearly that of stubbles, &c. among which he hunts, and consequently renders him a less distinguishable object.

A dog of the lemon or red colour is generally of a giddy and impatient nature, as choler is found to be the most predominant humour in him. In fact, in general, white and brown, or these colours mixed, are to be preferred. If a dog has much white upon him, it is an indication of good temper.



## THE SETTER

OR

## LARGE LAND SPANIEL.

THIS animal has an elegant form, ranges with great speed, and is extremely hardy.—There are many sportsmen who prefer the pointer to the setter; while others are found of a contrary opinion: though it appears to me that setters are much more used at present than they were a few years back, and appear to be coming more into fashion. The setter certainly has a great advantage over the pointer in grouse shooting, provided water is plentiful; for, when hunting, a setter wants to drink more frequently than a pointer: and it sometimes happens, especially in a dry summer, that water is not to be met with so often as the former seems to require in those mountainous countries where grouse are chiefly found. But the feet of the setter are much better defended against the sharp cutting of the heath, than those of the pointer, by having a great deal of hair growing between the toes, and round the ball of the foot, of which the other is almost destitute; at the same time, it ranges much faster, and will endure a great deal more fatigue. In any rough country the setter has certainly the advantage; while the pointer is perhaps to be preferred, where there is nothing but what may be termed smooth hunting. The setter is a high mettled creature, and is frequently extremely hard to be *broke in*; and requires more exercise, and more

game to be killed to it to make it steady than the pointer; yet setters are I think less apt to have *too much set*.\* In hunting for woodcocks or pheasants they have a decided preference; in fact a good setter will answer every purpose of a springer or cock-dog, which is easily accounted for:—the setter being a more hardy animal, and better defended by nature from briars, &c. he will penetrate thickets that a pointer will scarcely look at. It is necessary to give a setter more exercise immediately before the season commences, than a pointer stands in need of, which arises from his high mettle. A pointer is better adapted for a person who shoots very little, on account of his docile disposition; whereas when a setter is but little shot over or exercised, he is very apt to become wild and unruly. With regard to which of the two has the best nose, many will be found of opinion that the pointer in this respect is superior: this notion, however, I am inclined to think, has been hastily adopted; and has arisen most likely from the greater inclination which the pointer always manifests to set: he will puzzle much in a place which birds have left some time, and which a setter will scarcely notice: but I regard this as no superiority of nose, since I have generally found the setter ~~the~~ best at retrieving a lost bird; and setters in general are certainly the best at *footing*.

As to colour, the same rules may be observed as before mentioned respecting pointers.

\* When a dog frequently makes a steady point, and the game is gone, he is said to have *too much set*.

Many people are fond of a cross between these two breeds, and I have seen many good dogs thus produced; yet it is a thing I do not much approve myself, and consequently do not recommend it.

The compiler has in his possession, at this time, a setter that will take the water as well as a water-spaniel. If a bird happen to fall in the water after being shot, he will, on being told, fetch it out, without breaking a feather; and I am of opinion that it would be no hard matter to teach any setter to do this.

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## THE SPRINGER, OR COCK DOG.

THE animal generally used for this purpose is a small land spaniel; though I have seen water spaniels answer equally well. They will eagerly pursue either hare, pheasant, partridge, or indeed any kind of game; but are chiefly used for springing woodcocks and pheasants: they are of no use in shooting partridges or grouse; they are never taught to set, nor are they at all adapted for this diversion, as they are too small for an extensive range, and run with their noses too close to the ground. These dogs should never be used but in thickets, woods, and such like places; and then never suffered if possible to go beyond gun shot. It is asserted, that they are very useful in discovering a winged pheasant:—this I am willing to allow; but at the same time, I am convinced a setter is equally so. However, we will take it for granted, that these dogs are useful: but let me im-



press on the mind of those sportsmen who make use of them, the necessity of training them to *open* only when the game springs; to whimper and open when they come upon the scent is certainly well calculated to disturb it before the sportsman is within reach, and thus cause those mortifying disappointments, which any person fond of the diversion will more easily conceive than I am able to describe.

It appears to be the nature of these animals to spring all the game they find; and, as was observed before, they should be kept within gun-shot. Some sportsmen, where the covers are thick and extensive, fasten small bells to their collars: however, should they be wild and unruly, one of their fore legs buckled up between the collar and the neck will bring them to obedience.

These dogs are sometimes used in coursing, and perhaps this is the best purpose to which they can be applied. They are subject to diseases, particularly loss of smell, swelling of the glands in the neck, of which they frequently die, and a disease called *fermica*. I have known them to be crossed with the pointer; but the mongrels are seldom worth keeping.

## BREEDING AND TRAINING OF DOGS.

THE sportsman will easily perceive that this subject, of all others, is the most important, and consequently requires his most serious attention. A neglect in the first of these branches accounts no doubt for the worthless mongrels which may be frequently noticed; and the man, who does not personally attend to the breeding and training of his dogs, cannot expect to have them of first-rate excellence; whereas the sportsman, who attends to these matters himself, is well recompensed for his trouble, and, when in the field, is far superior to those who do not. By breaking your dog, you become acquainted with his temper and disposition; and his receiving the first rudiments of his education, and being trained by his master, of course he understands his voice and signs better than those of a stranger. If, after being broke, the dog passes into other hands, he has in some measure a new task to learn, owing intirely to his being unacquainted with the motions, &c. of his new master. If a person go to a dog-breaker to purchase one of these animals, he naturally expects to see him hunt:—to this the dog-breaker can have no objection; if the dog have any faults, they are already known to him, and he takes care that the creature is shown to the best advantage. Hence it has frequently happened, that persons, after purchasing dogs in this way, have found themselves much deceived; and dogs, which then appeared very good, have in reality been good for nothing: some, for instance, will hunt very well for an

hour, and then do no more; and to this and other causes may the disappointments above-mentioned be attributed. It should be recollected too, that honour is not an article in the creed of a dog-breaker; to make the best of a bargain is all he aims at. Now if a dog must be purchased from a professed breaker, I would recommend, by all means, for the person desirous of buying, to have him in his own possession for three weeks or a month; he will then have sufficient opportunities to make a proper trial, and it will be his own fault if he is deceived.

With regard to breeding.—The first symptom of a bitch becoming proud is the swelling of her *shape*, which also becomes red; and as the heat advances, you may observe her mounting other dogs, and manifesting every desire for copulation. If it so happen, that you cannot secure her as you wish, and at the same time you have an objection to her taking the dog, a red hot iron put to her shape, and held for half a second, so as to make it sore, will be the most effectual method to prevent it; for if the dog afterwards attempts to lick or otherwise touch that part, it will cause great pain, and she will assuredly drive him off.

If you are inclined to breed, the bitch for this purpose should be high and well bred; strong, and well proportioned in all her parts; her ribs large, and flanks wide, accompanied with swiftness. The dog should have a head of the middle size, wide nostrils, shoulders well back, chest deep, and breast rather wide than narrow; his back broad, especially over the loins; his legs should be very straight, and stand well under him, with



high knuckles, and feet round, but not large; his ears also (particularly a setter's) should be large.

The moment your bitch becomes proud, if you have not your favourite dog at hand, she should be so secured as to render it impossible for any other to get to her. I would advise the sportsman in this case to lock up the bitch, and keep the key himself, and to feed her, since servants are sometimes found negligent; and the effect of their carelessness might prove a great disappointment to their master.

I would not recommend breeding too early; for most assuredly it weakens a young bitch; but if your bitch is old, give her a young dog; paying, at the same time, attention to size; a large, strong, and boney bitch should have a light dog, and the contrary; also if she is low in stature, he may be tall. Though an old dog may be put to a young bitch, I would not, in any case, advise breeding from a *very* old one, since the whelps will most likely partake of that heavy dulness attendant on old age, as well as being small and weakly.

I have known some few sportsmen fond of *breeding in and in*; that is, to give the father to the daughter, the brother to the sister, &c. and I have seen as good dogs produced this way as ever were shot over: this custom, however, is not very prevalent; on the contrary, the general practice of breeding is from dogs and bitches that have not the smallest affinity. Thornhill, speaking on this subject, tells you that nature seems to forbid such a connexion; and that he advises it on no account whatever, though he allows that

*capital* dogs have been produced this way. This assertion, like many others which this gentleman's book contains, is ridiculous; and if the sportsman is desirous to try this method of *breeding in and in*, let him do so by all means.

Once will be sufficient for the dog to line your bitch, and as effectual as though he performed the operation ten times; and by taking the dog from her immediately after he has lined her once, she will sooner be off the heat. It frequently happens that at first a bitch will not take the dog; in which case it will be highly proper for them to remain together for some time, as by his courting and teasing her, she will most likely comply: if you find the bitch still unwilling, scratch her along the back against the hair with a currycomb, and it will produce the desired effect. A bitch ought not to be hunted till a week after she is off the heat; but should it so happen that you are compelled to hunt her with other dogs while she is proud, it will be advisable to daub her shape well with tar, which will prevent the other dogs from following her, as they otherwise would, and thus prevent their hunting.

We are told by some authors, and among the rest by Osbaldiston, that the best time for the dog and bitch to couple is when the moon is in Aquarius or Gemini; for, say they, such as are then engendered will never run mad, and the litter will be more dog than bitch whelps. I will not pretend to vouch for the truth of this; however, should the sportsman be inclined to breed at any particular time, and his bitch is not in heat, he may make her so by giving her the fol-

lowing:—Boil two heads of garlic, half a castor's stone, the juice of cresses, and about a dozen Spanish flies, in a pipkin that holds a pint, together with a piece of mutton, so as to make a kind of broth; and this must be given to the bitch two or three times. It will not fail to make her grow proud; and if given to the dog, will make him inclinable to copulate; and will not injure either in the least.

The time of gestation is nine weeks, during which it will be advisable to suffer the bitch to have her liberty, but not hunt her when she is big with pup; for, by this means, you will not only make her cast her whelps, but be in danger of losing your bitch also. When she is near pupping, she should have some warm milk or broth given her, in order to assist nature, and on no account be disturbed; nor indeed should any person go near her for eighteen hours after, as some bitches are a long time pupping. The puppies also should be handled as little as possible, as handling often injures them, and checks their growth.

The number of whelps is very uncertain, some producing fifteen, and others three or four. But should you be inclined to keep all the puppies of a litter, it will be necessary to look out for another bitch that will pup about the same time, in order to put some of your puppies to her: keen sportsmen sometimes keep mongrel bitches for this purpose. Whenever you put your puppies to a strange nurse, it will be necessary to rub them with some of the stranger's milk, immediately before putting them to her, as this is a



certain method to make her foster and rear them; five or six at most are enough for any bitch.

We are told by some writers, that when we wish to destroy part of the puppies, the following method should be adopted:—Take them from their litter to the distance of nine or ten yards, and the mother will immediately come and take them back to her bed, one by one; those she takes first you are to keep, according to the number you are in want of. For my own part, I should be disposed to adopt my own judgment in preference to that of the bitch. However, this I have remarked, that bitch whelps generally resemble the sire, while dog whelps are found to approximate the dam; and you may therefore make your choice accordingly.

After pupping, the bitch should not be confined, but go in and out as she pleases. Of all things avoid putting puppies into a stable; as they are continually in danger of being trod upon by the horses, from the moment they are able to crawl, as well as being liable to be killed by the groom in bedding, &c. his horses, which he always does with a fork. A horse too, let him be ever so fatigued, will not lie down while a dog is in the litter under him: besides, I have good reason to believe, that the offensive smell, which is caused by dogs continually lying in a stable, prevents horses from thriving so well. This practice may be common perhaps, but most assuredly it is a very bad one.

Puppies, when first brought forth, are blind, and remain so for nine days; and this is the proper time for drawing their tails. It is not common to shorten a set-

ter's tail; and long-tailed pointers are coming much into fashion. I am of opinion that dog's tails should be left just as nature formed them. To shorten a setter's tail is certainly to spoil his handsome appearance; and I have seen persons simple enough to do it. However, should the sportsman be disposed to shorten the tails of his pointers, let him do it when the puppies are nine or ten days' old; and this operation should be performed without the aid of either knife or scissars: by pressing your thumb nail upon your fore finger, twisting the end of the tail round, and giving it a gentle pull, you will find sufficient to separate it in the place you wish; and you will find, on drawing it, a long sinew come out. It will not be necessary to anoint the part, as the mother's tongue will be the most sovereign remedy, and she will not fail to apply it. The tail of a dog should never be cut when he is old, as it is a long time in getting well, and injures him also.

As soon as your puppies will lap, give them new milk from the cow, two or three times a-day. You need not be afraid of injuring your bitch by the whelps sucking her too long, as she will drive them off of her own accord; about which time you should wash her dugs with warm vinegar, or brandy and water, once a-day for a week, which will draw them up, and tuck them in: it will be advisable also to give the bitch some sulphur in new milk, to cleanse her: an ounce divided into four doses will be sufficient; a quarter of an ounce every third day. When the puppies are taken from the dam, they should have a little gentle physic, and plenty of whey the next day; and it will not be amiss if the

mother is bled prior to hunting her. The whelps should be allowed as much liberty as possible, to prevent them from becoming bandy, and out at the elbows, which confinement will almost universally produce.

The best time for worming puppies is when you are about to take them from the bitch, which neither injures their growth nor mettle; but has certainly the strongest of reasons to recommend it; namely, if by any means a dog become mad (I mean the hydrophobia), it prevents his biting any other animal; for, however good his inclination may be for that purpose, it renders him incapable of bringing his jaws together. This operation is no way difficult: the skin which covers the worm should be cut with a lancet; a large needle or an awl must then be introduced under the worm to raise it up; on its being raised, it will be necessary to lay hold, and draw it gently out; very little force is necessary, and care must be taken in the operation that the worm does not break; as in that case it will give double trouble, and additional pain to the animal.

If, about this time, puppies are branded with a red-hot iron with the initials of the owner's name, or any other mark he may prefer, it will be very difficult, or perhaps impossible, ever to obliterate it, and will be the surest means by which to recover them, in case they stray away or are stolen.

The best thing to feed whelps is potatoes and milk, or potatoes mixed with a little salt, which will certainly be a means of preserving them from the violent effects



of the distemper\*; for it is generally from high feeding that this bane to dogs arises; and if it prove not fatal to puppies so fed, it frequently makes them cripples. But as soon as they attain the age of eight or nine months, they may be indulged with a little flesh well boiled; and a little sulphur also should be given them once a week in milk; they should be frequently washed too with soap and water, to cleanse their skins, and kill the fleas: their beds should be often changed, and indeed every attention at this time paid, in order to keep them in health, and bring them to a proper size. Puppies are sometimes troubled with lice, for which Trooper's ointment is the best remedy†.

The diseases, accidents, &c. which whelps have to encounter from the period of their birth till they arrive at maturity, are many and dangerous; the sportsman therefore should be very well satisfied, if out of a litter of ten whelps, five arrive at perfection.

A dog never perspires, but yet is of a hot nature, and should therefore never be without clean water to drink as often as he pleases. With respect to food, the less carrion he has the better, as much of it injures his sense of smelling. Barley meal, the dross of wheat flour, or both mixed together, with broth, or skimmed milk, are good food, as is also potatoes. For a change, you may give him sheeps' feet well baked or boiled; and whenever you indulge in flesh, let it be well boiled. If one dog only is kept about a house, and he

\* For the cure of the distemper, see receipts.

† See receipts.

arrived at maturity, he cannot do better than to take the chance of the house. The kennels of these animals should be frequently cleaned, and fresh straw given them; or, in summer-time, deal shavings or sand, instead of straw, which will check the growth of fleas. It will not be amiss to wash occasionally with soap and water, or rub him with chalk, and brush and comb him well, which will clear his skin, and prevent his having the mange. They should have frequent opportunities of eating their favourite grass before-mentioned: they will feed on it freely, in order to be cured of the sickness to which they are liable, as well as of any extraordinary heat of blood.

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### TRAINING OR BREAKING DOGS FOR THE GUN.

**T**HE first thing to be considered under this head is the animal's temper: some dogs requiring severe and frequent correction, others little, and some want encouragement more than correction. That the setter is more difficult to break than the pointer will be readily allowed, though some setters are far less troublesome than others. Pointers will frequently set without any teaching; and indeed I have seen some few setters that would do it.

A dog should not be broken in too early, lest he become chest foundered. Some dogs will begin to hunt very early, and others are so long before they even take

the smallest notice of game, that many persons have either given away or destroyed them. However let no sportsman be hasty in condemning a backward dog, as they frequently prove of first note excellence; and I am inclined to think, that dogs of this description, as well as those which are difficult to break, turn out the best, when by patience and perseverance they have been brought to hunt, and are become staunch.

At the age of five or six months, or even earlier, you should allow your dog to accompany you when you walk out, supposing it to be in the lanes or elsewhere, and occasionally lead him in a cord, which will, in a great degree, induce him to bear the chain and couples. But do not suffer him to go very far from you; you may allow him to go a reasonable distance before you, making him always come close to your heels at the word *back*. Be sure always to use the same words in each lesson, and these too should not only be the most plain in their sound, but the most distinct also from each other; for it is the sound alone which is understood by the dog; the sense or the English makes no difference to him.

At this time it will not be amiss to teach him to crouch at a piece of bread, or any thing else you may think proper, and not stir till he is ordered: this may be easily done by gentle correction when he does amiss, and by rewarding him when he does right. A good time to give him this lesson will be immediately before you feed him, and never suffer him to eat till he has performed his task to your satisfaction, which will induce him to do well for the sake of his victuals.



The words *down* and *close* are short and expressive, and are all that are necessary when you make him crouch. It will seldom happen in teaching him his lesson, but faults will be committed; and as no fault should be allowed to escape correction, it will be necessary to adopt a word for that purpose; and *sirrah*, spoken in an angry tone, will soon be sufficiently intelligible; the discipline of a whip may be also administered with moderation, if you find the word does not answer the purpose, which will no doubt make it more impressive. At the same time, it will be highly necessary to teach him words of encouragement, as, *good boy*; and also of advice, as, *take heed*, which will remind him of what he is about to do, and put him on his guard. By this treatment he will become cunning, as well as cheerful and pleasant within himself, being conscious that he is pleasing his master; and the master should make it a rule always, if possible, to feed the dog himself, and allow no one to interfere in breaking him, as two masters will certainly breed confusion.

After you have brought him under proper subjection, at the age of nine months or thereabouts, according as he is strong and healthy, you should take him out with an old staunch dog, two or three times, as the old dog will give him a notion of hunting, and of ranging and beating his ground; but do not hunt him too severely; use him to obey the whistle, or the motion of your hand, in preference to your voice, as the fewer words that are used the better. A pistol or gun should be frequently fired over him, to make him acquainted and familiar with the report; for many young

dogs, on hearing a gun fired, are so alarmed, that they instantly run home, are with difficulty brought into the field again, and reconciled to it only after a length of time. But by this method you will make him steady on the shot ; and when you fire, you should make him crouch close, saying, *down, shot, and load*, or, *down-charge*, if you prefer it ; for most assuredly a dog that breaks away at shot will not only spoil your sport, but ruin your other dogs by his bad example.

Should your dog (and it is no uncommon occurrence), at this period manifest an inclination to hunt and worry sheep or fowls, the following will be found the best methods to prevent him from pursuing such bad habits :—If he be inclined for sheep, tie him to a strong ram, and flog him till he cries out, on which the ram will not fail to commence a violent attack on the dog, and will butt him with his head most severely, which will most likely prevent him from ever looking at a sheep afterwards : this may be done either in the field, or in a barn, or any building. Respecting poultry, take a cleft stick ; at one end of it tie a living fowl, and put the dog's tail in the cleft at the other, and tie it in very tight, so as to cause him some pain ; then give him three or four stripes with a whip, and let him run off : when he has tired himself, and can run no longer, untie the stick from his tail, and beat him well about the head with the fowl : there is little doubt but this will prevent his ever meddling with fowls again. If a dog be allowed to kill poultry unpunished, it will make him hard mouthed, and apt to

*break* his game; to say nothing of the injury he may do to his master or neighbours.

To return.—At first, taking your young dog into the field, you may suffer him to do as he pleases, and he will most likely pursue indiscriminately every thing he sees—crows, pigeons, thrushes, &c. This eagerness, however, being somewhat abated, he will end by only pursuing partridges and hares, to the former of which his natural instinct will more particularly attach him; and being soon tired of following these in vain, he will be satisfied, after flushing, to follow them with his eyes only. He will not do the same with hares; for seeing they do not leave the ground like the partridge, but only run like himself, he will not relinquish the hope of overtaking them; he will therefore continue to chase hares, until corrected by education; and this can only be done where they are plentiful, and the dog in the habit of seeing them continually.

As soon as your young dog begins to hunt, and you perceive he knows his game, the best method will be to hunt him by himself, as he will be more easily stopped and managed than when in company, as other dogs might make him too eager and jealous. Besides, by continually hunting with an old dog, he will acquire a habit of following him, well knowing that he will be sure to find game first, and thus will never attempt to hunt for himself. You will easily perceive when he has got the scent by the movement of his tail; however, he should not be stopped too soon, but should be allowed to chase his game for some time, and this more particularly if it has been long before he began to notice it.



Stopping dogs, or, in other words, to make them set, is much easier than a young sportsman would imagine; and many will, in this respect, require little or no teaching.

After you have suffered your dog to chase for a little while, and as soon as he begins to know what he is about, you will find that he will sometimes, on coming up to it, make a sudden stop, and then run in on the birds. This is the time to begin to make him set.

In order the more easily to stop your young dog, it will not be amiss to take an old steady one with you: be careful also to give him the wind, and take every other advantage you can in his favour. In hunting never suffer your dog to *break field*; or, in other words, to go out of the field before you; and, in casting him off to hunt, either to your right or left, as your own judgment may direct, make use of your hand. The less noise you make, the steadier your dog will hunt: your voice or the whistle should be used as little as possible. If you teach your dog to hunt by the motion of your hand, he will regularly look for the signal whenever he is at a loss; whereas, if you use much noise, he will scarcely ever turn to look where you are, satisfied with hearing alone. In hunting make the dog cross you backward and forward, from one hedge to the other, every now and then advancing yourself sixty or seventy yards. In this manner the field should be hunted regularly through; and if there be any game, you will be certain of finding it.

We will now suppose your dog arrived at that period at which he ought to be stopped. When either of

your dogs find game, and the young one springs and chases it, bring him back to the place whence it sprung, and there make him lie down, calling out *toho!* and using rough and angry words, in order to check him. If, after taking this trouble several times, you find he continues obstinate, you must administer the discipline of your whip, the degree of which must be regulated by the disposition of the dog, with which, by this time, you will most likely be thoroughly acquainted. I would wish to impress it on the mind of the sportsman, that a dog that will not bear the whip is completely ruined if corrected too severely; and numbers of very promising young dogs have been thus rendered useless, particularly by ignorant, passionate men, who make a trade of dog-breaking. Excessive flogging is apt to make a young dog *blink* his game. *Blinking* is when a dog finds his game, and on being spoken to, draws off, and runs behind you, and frequently too without being spoken to. A dog of this description is of little or no use in the field; and when once a dog has contracted this habit, it will take no very small pains to free him from it. In breaking young dogs, a sportsman should be systematically cool and deliberate; and on no occasion whatever suffer himself to be hurried into a passion; and in correcting a dog (as was said before) let nothing but a whip be used. But there are some dogs so very hard, and high-mettled, as to require severe correction; and these too, when once conquered, generally prove excellent.

When your young dog finds game, *walk slowly* up to him, but never *run*; for if you run, it is natural for

him to do the same, and he will certainly spring the birds. As soon as you get up to your dog, and think yourself sufficiently near the birds, (supposing he stands and the game lies) walk round him, continuing to move closer till you spring them: if he should then chase, he should be corrected as before directed, which will most likely answer the purpose. If, however, you find him still unruly, when he next makes a point, head him if if possible, and shewing him your whip, smack it two or three times, at the same time calling out, *down, toho!*—Should all this fail of the desired effect, the *trash-cord* must next be resorted to. This is only fastening to the dog's collar a small rope or cord, of about 20 or 25 fathoms in length, and then letting him range about with this dragging on the ground. By the help of this cord you will be able to stop him whenever you please. Should he again attempt to run in, you must check him smartly with the cord. (This cord may be used also should the dog not come in when he is called, &c.) If after practising with the trash-cord, you still find him attempt to flush his game, recourse must be had to the *strong-collar*, (or *spike-collar* as it is called in some parts) which is no other than a strong leather strap, stuck with three rows of small nails, the points of which should extend three or four lines of an inch beyond the surface of the inside. A piece of leather must then be sewed over the heads of the nails to prevent their starting back when the dog presses upon their points. A ring is then fastened to each end of this collar (for if it were buckled like a common one, it would perpetually wound the dog) through which is



passed one end of a cord, of the same length as the one just before mentioned, in such a manner that, in pulling towards you, the rings may bring the collar close, in order that the nails may press upon his neck, and warn him of his fault. When you have put this instrument round the neck of your dog, cast him off, and let him run with the cord drawing after him as before. As soon as he makes a point, get the end of the cord into your hand, and if he attempts to run in, give him a smart pull, calling out *toho* ! If you think proper you may fasten a peg to the end of the cord, which, on the dog coming to a point, may be stuck in the ground ; by which means you will be enabled to walk up to him, and act as your own judgment directs. A few of these lessons will most assuredly answer the purpose. It is generally supposed that dogs broke in a mountainous country, or to grouse, have an advantage over others in point of range, but much of this depends upon the animal himself.

Whenever young dogs *rake*, that is, hunt with their noses too close to the ground, recourse must generally be had to the *puzzle-peg* ; though sometimes words will be sufficient. What is known by the name of dog-wood, is mostly used for making these pegs, the length of which should be ten or twelve inches ; and that part which comes under the dog's jaw should be at least two inches broad, with a thin strap of leather running horizontally through the thick end of it, so as to buckle round the neck of the dog ; and that part immediately under the dog's tusks must have a hole bored through it, so as to admit of a slight thong of white horse lea-

ther, which must be placed behind the tusks of the dog, and tied underneath his jaw. With this instrument fastened on the dog, you may hunt him, without the smallest injury; and it will most undoubtedly make him throw up his head well, and draw his game better: by this means he will also be prevented from mouthing, however good his inclination may be.

A dog that rakes with his nose, and follows the game by the track, will never be worth keeping, unless cured of this habit. Whenever, therefore, you perceive your young dog is following the track of partridge down wind, call to him in an angry tone, *hold up!* he will then become uneasy and agitated, going first on one side, and then on the other, till the wind brings him the scent. He will only have to find the game four or five times in this way, when he will perhaps take the wind of himself, and hunt with his nose high. Should this not be the case, recourse must be had to the *puzzle-peg*.

Partridges lie much better to dogs that wind them, than to those that follow by the track. The dog that winds the scent approaches the birds by degrees, and that more or less as he finds them either shy or tame; or, in other words, whether they lie well, which he is enabled to discover by the scent which they emit when they are uneasy; and notwithstanding they see him hunt round them, they will not be alarmed, because they do not perceive that he is following them. Nothing disturbs birds more than for them to see a dog tracing their footsteps. When a dog follows them in this manner down wind, he generally springs them; for

he is not able to take the scent properly until he is upon them, and then they will not lie.

Be careful to keep your young dog regularly to his work, and be very strict with him just as he is getting staunch, as the first season he is shot over generally determines whether he will be a good one, or not worth keeping: at this period numbers of sporting dogs are ruined by improper management; if, at this time, they are suffered to acquire any bad habits, such as ranging too wide, inattention to their master, &c. they will be with great difficulty reclaimed, and some will never be brought to proper obedience again.

Some are of opinion, that when you take out young dogs, you should have a second person to flog them; and as a reason for which they allege, that by constantly correcting your dog yourself, he will occasionally sneak away when he has done wrong, and prevent you coming sufficiently near to correct him. This doctrine appears to me quite erroneous: If the dog, after being once beaten, sneaks off when he does wrong, depend on it he will sooner suffer his master to come near him a second time than a stranger. Besides, it is not sufficient for him *to love his master only*—he should *fear him also*, since it is most undoubtedly fear as much as love that makes this creature obedient.

As to speed, if a dog have a good nose, it is generally supposed he cannot be too swift; but very fleet dogs are apt occasionally to run over the game, and are certainly sooner fatigued than a steady even-rated one. A dog of the latter description will make ample amends for his want of swiftness, by hunting more



carefully, and never passing or running in upon his game.

To make a dog back and stand in company, you should hunt him with an old staunch dog; and then with a small application of the principles of training, you will easily effect this useful qualification. In teaching your young dog to *back*, it will be necessary for your old one to make a point; and should the young one be in a distant part of the field, call to him; and as soon as you perceive he sees the old dog, hold up your hand, using, at the same time, the word *toho!* By practising this two or three times, you will find your dog *back* without farther trouble.

If, when you come to shoot over your young dog, you find he breaks away on the shot, you must bring him back to the place whence he run, and there, making him lie down, call *down-charge!* if words prove insufficient, the whip must be resorted to, which will assuredly bring him to obedience. It is for this reason that the dog should never be taught to fetch the bird when killed; if he is, it will be impossible to make him steady on the shot.

It may not be amiss to observe, that occasionally the best of dogs may make mistakes, such as flushing birds, &c. and this frequently happens on bad scenting days, or in accidentally hunting down wind; and in these cases it will be sufficient to speak angrily to him, but by no means to flog him.

Some writers, in giving directions for training pointers, advise you at first to make use of pieces of bread fried in hog's lard with partridge's dung, and strewed

in the fields where you intend to hunt ; this, however, is only giving the sportman unnecessary trouble, and therefore ought to be exploded.

I shall close this subject with observing, that a dog intended for settingshould never be named *Ponto*, *Carlo*, nor indeed any name ending with *O* ; as *toho* is an expression so generally made use of by sportsmen and dog-breakers, when they intend he should keep his ground, that a dog thus named will be liable to be deceived, and to mistake the intention of his master.

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### DISEASES INCIDENTAL TO DOGS.

Dogs are liable to many disorders, and for each disease numbers of remedies have been prescribed. But madness is the most dreadful of all others, and hitherto has baffled the skill of all those who have made the cure of it their particular study.

Madness is a distemper very common among all kinds of dogs, but which, by proper care, is easily prevented in general. It proceeds from high feeding, and want of exercise, and also from fulness of blood and costiveness :—With regard to the two first it may be observed, that they should be better fed when you hunt them, than when they rest ; and let them be neither too fat nor too lean, but of the two rather inclined to fat ; by which means they will not only be preserved from madness, but also from the mange and scab. If you have not an opportunity of letting dogs have free

access to good clear water, such as a running stream for instance, let it be changed every day, and take care they have as much as they please. Their exercise and diet must be ordered according to your own discretion, being careful to observe a proper medium; and give them once a week, especially in the heat of the year, five or six spoonsful of sallad oil, which will cleanse them; if at other times they have given them the quantity of a hazel nut of mithridate, it is an excellent thing to prevent diseases. It is adviseable occasionally to bleed them under the tongue, and behind the ears.— If at any time you are suspicious of a dog going mad, instantly secure him.

There are no less than seven sorts of madness, two of which, the hot burning madness, and the running madness, are regarded as incurable, and are dangerous in the highest degree, the effect of which is too well and too fatally known to need a description in this place. All things they bite, and draw blood from, will have the same distemper: they generally seize on all they meet, but particularly on their own species; and it is singular that all dogs have a dread of them, and fly, if possible, at their approach. However courageous a dog may be, on being attacked by one that is mad, he will cry out, and make every effort to disengage himself, and run away. It is said that a mad dog always runs straight a-head; and should any person perceive a dog approaching whom he is apprehensive of being so, all he has to do is to turn out of the road, and the animal, if mad, will not follow. I have twice adopted this method myself, and have found it to answer.



The symptoms of this disease present themselves in various forms, but are easily discerned. The following are generally the forerunners of it :—When a dog becomes melancholy, droops his head, forbears eating, seems to forget his former habits, and as he runs snatches at every thing ; if he often looks upwards, and that his stern at its setting on be rather erect, and the rest of it hanging down ; if his eyes be red, his breath strong, his voice hoarse, and that he drivels and foams at the mouth, you may be satisfied he has this distemper ; and the only thing which should be done is instantly to despatch him, however great a favourite he may be. If, at this period, he should remain at liberty, he will certainly leave his home ; he goes at full speed, and the mischief that may happen, owing thus to a mad dog breaking away, and running over an extent of country, is incalculable, as he spares no living creature.

There is still another very distinguishing feature by which this disease may be known, which is the animal's aversion to water, and liquids in general. At the sight of water, not only a mad dog, but a human being who has the hydrophobia, will shudder, and turn from it with abhorrence ; and this is undoubtedly the most certain sign that a dog is mad. These animals are liable to other diseases, the symptoms of which, in some degree, approximate those of madness, and are frequently mistaken for them, but in no other disorder will a dog manifest that utter aversion to water ; as in other cases, if he will not drink, he will in general smell of it, and appears no way alarmed ; on the contrary, a mad dog seems frightened, and will be almost convulsed at the very sight.

Thornhill asserts that this method is not to be relied on, and adds, that “now and then mad dogs do not appear to feel any dread of it; however, they will seldom voluntarily drink when the disease is arrived at any height.” Now as this gentleman has served *four apprenticeships* to training dogs, as he himself informs us, it is very likely he may have seen a dog afflicted with this disease; but in this assertion he shews his ignorance as to the nature of it. Wherever this “*now and then*” has occurred, it has *always been in the very last stage of the disease*, when the animal has almost run himself down, and his dissolution is at hand; at this period mad dogs have been known sometimes to cross rivers, but never to drink. As to dogs drinking in the first stage of this disease, which Thornhill’s assertion seems to allow, it is certainly false; I have had an opportunity of trying the experiment many times. A few years ago, a pack of fox-hounds belonging to a gentleman in Cheshire was infected with this disease; how the disorder first got among them is unknown; but every “now and then” one or more manifested the usual symptoms; and, as the pack was very valuable, every means were resorted to to preserve it, and every method tried to cure the already disordered dogs to no purpose. These dogs, on first being attacked, were well secured, in order to try the effect of different remedies prescribed for the cure of the hydrophobia, which, however, were all useless, and the whole was at length destroyed. The abhorrence of water was uniformly testified throughout, and I have found it an unerring proof in every instance.

Among the various remedies for this disease, none perhaps has been more celebrated with less merit than the *Ormskirk medicine*. It has been publicly asserted, that this medicine has cured both dogs and human beings, even after the hydrophobia has taken place; this, however, is a positive falsehood; I shall not hesitate to assert, that, so far from *curing*, it has no effect whatever in *preventing*, this scourge, as well of man as of the canine race. I am willing to allow that many persons have been bit by dogs, which their own fears have magnified into mad ones, and after taking the Ormskirk medicine, have fancied themselves preserved from the hydrophobia. Perhaps, after being bit by a strange dog, they have had a slight indisposition arising from colds or other causes: this has instantly been regarded as the first symptoms of madness; the medicine has been taken, and they have recovered. This is the most rational, and indeed the only way, of accounting for those reports of cures, which have been so roundly asserted, and published to the world.

That many dogs are called mad, which are not so, is very evident. Should a dog happen to pass through a strange town or village, if he run, all the dogs in the place will run after him; and he to get clear will snap at either man or dog that impedes his way: the cry of *mad dog!* resounds from all quarters; crowds armed with different instruments of destruction instantly pursue the wretched animal, and he falls a victim to the ill-timed rage of ignorance.

After a supposed mad dog has been killed, in order to prove this point precisely, take a bit of bread and



rub it on his teeth and gums, and then give it to another dog ; if the animal refuse to eat it, it is a strong proof that the other was mad ; on the contrary, should he eat it, you may rest satisfied he was not so : this is asserted, and generally obtains credit ; but this experiment I have never yet tried.

I would strongly recommend my readers always to have their puppies wormed, which prevents a dog in this state from biting ; and, whenever the hydrophobia makes its appearance, to destroy the animal. If either man or beast has been bitten by a mad dog, I am of opinion that the only way to prevent the effects so much to be dreaded, is the immediate application of the lancet, all medicines hitherto discovered having proved abortive. As to the Ormskirk medicine, it has now deservedly fallen into disrepute ; and I have witnessed many instances of its absolute inefficacy : indeed it has failed, I am certain, in every instance, except in *fancied* cases.

Should a dog be supposed to have been bitten by a mad dog, and certain proof be wanting of the animal which bit him being mad, the case is very disagreeable ; as the precise time for taking effect has never been, nor perhaps ever will be, ascertained ; you might therefore keep your suspected dog confined for many months, and still remain in uncertainty.

In closing this subject, I shall merely observe, that great numbers of remedies have been prescribed for this most dreadful disorder ; but as I am certain none will either prevent or cure it, I shall forbear enumerating them ; however, I am decidedly of opinion, that

by having the bitten part immediately cut out, will prevent infection; and of this I have seen two very striking and conclusive instances.

The five curable madnesses are the following:—

1. *Falling Madness*.—So called on account of its lying in the dog's head. This disease makes the animal frequently reel and fall down, and is often mistaken for fits. To cure this disorder, take four ounces of the juice of briony, and the same quantity of the juice of peony, with four drachms of staves-acre pulverised: mix these together, and give it the dog with a drenching horn. Also bleed him in the ears, and in the two veins that come down his shoulders.

2. *Sleeping Madness*.—In this disorder the dog appears very drowsy, and seems to wish to sleep continually, which is caused by little worms that are bred in the mouth of the stomach, from corrupt humours, and vapours, the fumes of which ascend to the head: to cure which take six ounces of the juice of wormwood, two ounces of the powder of hartshorn burnt, and two drachms of agaric: mix all these together in a little white wine, and give it the animal with a drenching horn.

3. *Dumb Madness* lies in the blood, and causes the dog not to feed, but to hold his mouth always wide open, frequently rubbing his feet against the sides of it, as if he had a bone in his throat. In order to cure, take the juice of black hellebore, the juice of spatula putrida, and of rue, of each four ounces; strain them well, and add thereto two drachms of unprepared scammony, which, being mixed well together, give the

dog with the instrument before mentioned, holding his head up for some time, lest he throw it out again ; after which bleed him in the mouth by cutting two or three veins in his gums.

4. *Lank Madness* is so called by reason of the dog's leanness and pining away. I am of opinion that this disorder is incurable ; at all events nothing better can be given than a little syrup of buckthorn, and let the animal be bled.

5. *Rheumatic, or Slaving Madness.*—This disease occasions the dog's head to swell, and his eyes to appear yellow. He will also slaver and drivel at the mouth ; to cure which, take four ounces of the powder of the roots of polipody of the oak, six ounces of the juice of fennel roots, with the like quantity of the roots of misletoe, and four ounces of the juice of ivy : let these all be boiled together, and given to the dog as hot as he can take it.

The *Distemper* (as it is called) is another grievous disorder, to which young dogs seem as liable as children are to the small pox, and which frequently proves fatal. In many cases, where the dog recovers, it will make him lame, in some part or other, the rest of his life. Many medicines are prescribed for it ; but the best advice that can be given on this head is to prevent the virulence of the disease by diet. Whenever a young dog is sustained on high food, he is sure to have the distemper very violently. What I mean by high food is carrion, flesh, &c. Now, if your young dog is fed with potatoes and buttermilk, or skimmed milk, or potatoes alone, weak broth, and such simple food, and



occasionally takes a small dose of sulphur; he will not suffer much from this disease, and require little or no medicine. Inoculation is a method highly to be recommended. You should physic your young dog with sulphur, and also bleed him; and then if you can find a dog that has the distemper (if favourably perhaps the better) take some of the infectious mucus from his nostrils, and place it with a rowel either in your dog's neck, or through his lip, rubbing, at the same time, a little on his nose, and with a feather putting some up his nostrils; in a day or two, give him about two table spoonsful of castor oil. I have not the smallest hesitation in recommending this method of inoculation, as I have seen it tried with success, though I never practise it myself. But of all things, I am certain, from repeated trials, that nothing so much prevents the virulence and fatal effects of this disorder as feeding on simple food, and giving sulphur occasionally, as above-mentioned; and this simple food too will make your dog sufficiently fat.

It is curious to observe the pains which Thornhill has taken to describe the merits of Dr. Blaine's medicine for the cure of the distemper. One would really imagine that these two gentlemen were intimate friends, and that the former endeavoured to do the latter a kindness in thus exerting his *literary* talents to sell the doctor's medicine. The inefficacy of Blaine's medicine I have many times witnessed; however, should the sportsman be inclined to make trial of it, I believe it may be purchased in almost every market town in the kingdom, at the medicine venders.

The nature of this disorder, like that of the hydrophobia, is not properly understood. The following medicines, however, have been used with success:—

A table spoonful of Norris's drops, in the same quantity of port wine, given occasionally : one grain and a half of calomel, and five grains of rhubarb, given every other day : half an ounce of jesuit's bark, the same quantity of dragon's blood, and also of gamboge, made into pills nearly the size of an hazle nut ; one to be given every other day.

Great benefit also has been found from an ounce of Peruvian bark in a glass of port wine, and given twice a day.

The preceding receipts I make no doubt are very good ; but I must honestly confess, I have found more benefit from syrup of buckthorn, than any other medicine. It is of such a nature as to operate as physic, at the same time that it administers in some measure, to the nourishment of the animal.

I have known many persons fond of giving castor oil, and for aught I know it may be a very good thing ; but it is ten to one the dog throws it up again as soon as given ; and this never happens with syrup of buckthorn.

The *mange* is perhaps the most disgraceful to the sportsman of any disease to which dogs are subject, as it frequently arises from their being half starved at home, by which they are compelled to seek sustenance abroad, and thus feed on human excrements and the vilest rubbish. In fact, this disease arises entirely from neglect : it is frequently caused by dirty ken-

nels, foul water, and filthiness in general; and when once the mange is contracted, the infection will spread through all the dogs of the house, unless great care is taken to keep them separate. This disease is of two kinds, the one called the *red*, and the other the *common* mange—the former of which is the most difficult to cure, but not so infectious. The red mange may be known from the common by a reddish appearance, as if the dog had been scalded; the dog will also lose his hair in a much shorter time: frequently too when you suppose the red mange to be cured, it will re-appear.

The mange deprives a dog, in a great degree, of his sense of smelling; but is easily cured on its first appearance. But dogs which have proper attention paid them will never be troubled with this loathsome disease, unless one already affected by some means gets among them.

To cure the *red mange*—take four ounces of quicksilver, two ounces of Venice turpentine, and a pound of hog's lard: the quicksilver and turpentine to be well incorporated until all the globules disappear: an ounce to be rubbed on the dog daily for three successive days, especially on those parts that seem the most affected.

This disorder may be cured (as also the common mange) by rubbing the dog well with mercurial ointment; but great care must be taken to prevent the animal getting cold; as in that case you will most likely lose your dog. On the first appearance of the mange, it may be cured by rubbing a very little on the affected parts.



## THE DOG.

63

The common mange may be cured by stone brimstone powdered fine, either in milk, or mixed up with butter, and made into an ointment with hog's lard, and a small quantity of oil of turpentine; with which rub the dog every day for a week; or—take large millet and sweet turnip-roots, which boil in cow's urine till it is like broth, and with it rub your dog three or four times.

*Another*—Sulphur, two ounces; aloes, two drachms; mercurial ointment, two drachms; hog's lard, four ounces, all well mixed together; with which rub the animal more than once, should there be occasion.—This, in my opinion, is preferable to any of the preceding: the aloes are intended merely to prevent the dog from licking himself.

Dogs are sometimes afflicted with convulsions, which may be known by the following symptoms:—The tongue hanging out of the animal's mouth, violent trembling in the legs, staggering, and falling. When these symptoms appear, the dog's nose and tongue should be dipped in cold water, and he should be bled.

I shall now proceed to give a list of disorders, &c. which are obvious at first view, with the methods of cure.

*For Fits.*—Bleed the dog, and rub him well with a flat stone, or a rough piece of wood.

*For the Megrin.*—Bleeding will be sufficient.

*For Colds and Coughs.*—Flour of sulphur, cold drawn linseed oil, and salt-petre, of each one ounce: divide it into four doses, giving one every other day, and a table-spoonful of honey daily.

different times been prescribed for curing the bite of the viper, &c. and some of which, I am certain, are absolutely ineffectual. I shall not therefore trouble my reader with enumerating them, but only mention one simple though certain remedy, which is nothing but sweet oil. Of this I have made repeated trials, and can recommend it without hesitation, as an infallible cure. When a dog has been bit by a viper, slow-worm, &c. (and the animal's nose is the part most likely to be bit) the bitten part will immediately swell, and whenever the sportsman perceives this to be the case, he has only to rub it well with sweet oil (olive oil is the best).—Should a considerable time elapse before he is able to procure oil, and the poison have materially affected the dog, a spoonful of oil should be poured down his throat, and the bitten part held over a charcoal fire while the oil is well rubbed in. It will seldom happen, however, that any thing more will be necessary than a little common sweet oil rubbed well on the wound. It may not be amiss to observe that olive oil and a charcoal fire (as above described) will cure the sportsman himself, should he ever unfortunately stand in need of such a remedy.

*For the bite of a mad dog:—*The best cure for this is *hanging*—however, should the sportsman be disposed to try any remedy, let it be an immediate application of the lancet, and well securing the dog for a long time afterwards.

*For bites of other dogs:—*Rub the parts with Friar's balsam, oil of organum, and soap lineament:

*For a dog wounded with shot*:—Oil of turpentine, oil of camomile, and aqua vitæ, of each two ounces, mixed well together with half a pint of linseed oil.

*For the same*:—Fresh goose grease melted and strained through a sieve, spirit of wine and turpentine, of each an equal quantity, melted, strained clear and fine—the parts to be well anointed.

*For sore feet, or stripping in the feet*:—Stale urine, or salt and water, are frequently used; but styptic tincture is preferable in every respect, as it will extract thorns, and enable the dog to hunt next morning. Alum water is a good thing to wash a dog's feet with, on account of its hardening them.

*To bring hair upon a scalded part*:—Calcine a piece of leather, and mix it with hog's lard, with which rub the affected parts. Other receipts might be given, but this is much the best, as well as the most simple, and nothing better can be used to make hair grow in general.

*To make a dog fine in his coat*:—Brush him well with chalk, and give him two large table spoonsful of syrup of buckthorn, twice a week for a fortnight.

*Another for the same*:—One pound of native sulphur, one quart of train oil, one pint of oil of turpentine, and two pounds of soft soap—rub well with this four or five times in the space of the summer.

*To destroy fleas, ticks, or lice*:—Sweet oil; or, four ounces of shag tobacco steeped in three quarts of water, and well rubbed in before a fire; or common soap and warm water made into a strong lather, and left on the animal for a day; or, Scotch snuff rubbed all over him; or, trooper's ointment. And indeed many others might



be enumerated that would answer the purpose ; in hot weather, however, and if the dog have much hair, (which is generally the case with setters and springers) it will be necessary to repeat the operation very often.

*To recover the sense of smelling :—*Two drams of agaric, one scruple of sal gemmæ ; beat these into powder, and mix them well with simple oxymel, making a pill as big as a nut ; cover it with butter, and force it down the dog's throat—if he will not take it without that trouble.

*To cure dogs that have taken poison :—*Nux-vomica, &c.—Any thing that will cause instantaneous vomiting will have the desired effect ; and nothing is better than two or three grains of blue vitriol ; or, common salt forced down his throat till he vomits. And afterwards he should have the following purge given him :—A table spoonful of oil of English pitch, and this should be given him in the morning fasting. Nux-vomica will kill a dog in a short time unless he discharges it from his stomach.

*Balls to be given a few weeks before the shooting season :—*One pound of antimony, four ounces of sulphur, and syrup of buckthorn—a sufficient quantity to give it a proper consistence—divide into balls, each weighing seven drams ; give one every second or third day.

*To dry up a bitch's milk :—*Warm vinegar and brandy ; or goose grease and rum, of each an equal quantity—anoint the teats well.

*Spaying bitches :—*If you would spay your bitch, it should be done before she has ever had a litter of whelps ; and in performing the operation, the roots

and strings of the veins should not be taken entirely away; as, if you do, you will injure her reins, and make her slow in running ever after. A bitch must never be spayed while she is proud, as her life will be in great danger. For my own part, I would recommend neither spaying nor gelding, as these animals thus reduced to the *neuter gender*, soon become good for nothing.

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## LAWS RELATING TO DOGS.

I WILL venture to assert, that the shooting sportsman would much sooner lose a horse than a favourite dog; and in his estimation the crime of stealing the latter would be much greater; but the framers of the dog-laws thought otherwise, and thought justly—it is not death to steal a dog, which is the case with horse-stealing. Notwithstanding, these animals are legally protected, and to a greater extent than many imagine.

It is provided by 10 Geo. III. c. 18. that if any person shall steal *any dog or dogs, of any kind or sort whatsoever*, not only from the owner, but from any person with which such dog or dogs may have been intrusted; or shall *sell, buy, receive, harbour, detain, or keep*, any such dog or dogs, knowing the same to be stolen, every such offender being thereof convicted, on the oath of *one* witness, or on his or her own confession, before two justices, shall, for the first offence, forfeit a sum not exceeding *thirty*, nor less than *twenty* pounds,

at the discretion of such two justices; together also with the charges previous to and attending such conviction, to be ascertained by the said justices. And if such penalty is not forthwith paid, the offender shall be committed to the house of correction or common gaol, for a period not less than *six*, nor exceeding *twelve*, calendar months, or until the said penalties and charges are paid.

Should such person be convicted of a second offence, he shall forfeit a sum not exceeding *fifty*, nor less than *thirty*, pounds, together with the expense attending such conviction; in case of non-payment, to be committed to the house of correction, or common gaol, for any time not exceeding *eighteen*, nor less than *twelve*, months, or until the fine shall be paid; one moiety of such penalties to the informer, and the other to the poor of the parish where the offence has been committed; and such justices shall order the offender to be publicly whipped within three days after commitment, in the town wherein such gaol or house of correction shall be, between the hours of twelve and one in the day-time\*.

It is also lawful, upon information, for one justice to grant a warrant to search for any dog or dogs stolen as aforesaid; and in case either the dog or his skin shall be found, the said justice shall take and restore such dog or skin to its right owner, and the person in

\* This statute, in the act, is very inaccurately worded; and would afford ample scope for the quibbling abilities of the long-robed gentlemen.



whose possession or custody such dog or skin was found, (such person being privy to the theft) shall be liable to the like penalties and punishment as are inflicted on persons convicted of stealing any dog or dogs under this act. However, should any person think himself aggrieved by any thing done in pursuance of this act, he may appeal to the next general quarter sessions, within four days after the cause of complaint shall arise, such appellant giving fourteen days notice in writing of his intention to appeal, and the justices at such sessions shall determine the appeal in a summary way, and award such costs as they shall think proper—which determination shall be final. The last sentence of this paragraph appears ridiculous, where it says that the appellant must give *fourteen days* notice of his appeal, and yet that appeal must be made within *four days after the cause of complaint*.

In order to elucidate this business, and shew in what manner a lost dog may be recovered, I shall insert the following case:—

M. 7. Geo. III.—On an action of trover and conversion for a setting dog, the plaintiff proved the dog to be his property, and that it was found at the defendant's house twelve months after it had been lost. The defendant said, the dog strayed there casually; and demanded twenty shillings for its keep for twenty weeks, before he would deliver up the dog. A verdict was given for the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of the court, whether this refusal amounted to a conversion of the dog. The counsel for the defendant declined arguing the question, and the plaintiff had judgment.—*Bl. Rep.* 1117.

Hence it would appear, that if a dog strays into the habitation of any person, without a collar, he has no right to detain him, unless he does it knowing the dog, and with the intention of restoring him to his owner. But, notwithstanding, dog-stealers frequently contrive to elude the vigilance of the law, by conveying dogs to distant parts of the kingdom.

With respect to mischievous or dangerous dogs,—it is a public nuisance to suffer such to be at large and unmuzzled, to the danger or annoyance of the neighbours or passengers; and the owner thereof may be indicted; and an action for damage will, in such case, lie against him. Such action, however, cannot be brought unless the owner had notice of his having bit some person once before. 12 Mod. 555. 1 Ld. Raym. 606. This is chiefly meant of mastiffs, bull-dogs, and other ferocious dogs.

An action will also lie against a man for keeping a dog accustomed to bite sheep, provided it can be proved that the owner knew him to be guilty of such a practice; and his having *once* wounded or killed a sheep is sufficient to constitute it.

If another dog fall on mine, I am justified in beating, and even killing him, if there be danger of him materially injuring mine, and I cannot save him in any other way.

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*Duty on Dogs.*—Every person who shall keep any greyhound, hound, pointer, setting-dog, spaniel, lurcher, or terrier; or who shall keep two or more

dogs, of whatever description or denomination the same may be, shall annually pay eleven shillings and sixpence each.

And every person who shall inhabit any dwelling-house, assessed to any of the duties on inhabited houses, or on windows or lights; and shall keep one dog and no more, not being of the above description, shall pay seven shillings annually for such dog.

But this duty is not to extend to dogs not six months old; the proof of which to lie on the owner on an appeal to the commissioners.

Persons compounding for their hounds to be charged thirty-four pounds.



## THE GROUSE.

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**THE** Grouse is a bird which is found in different parts of the globe, and of which there are various kinds. However, as this volume is intended not for the naturalist, but the sportsman, it will be necessary to describe only those which breed in Great Britain, and that kind in particular, which is the general object of pursuit, and which is known by the name of *red grouse*, or *moor-game*.

These birds are much larger than the partridge; the male weighing about nineteen ounces. The bill is black, the irides hazel-coloured, the throat red, the plumage on the head and neck a light tawny red, each feather being marked with several transverse bars of black; the back and scapulars are a deeper red, and on the middle of each feather is a large black spot; the breast and belly are of a dull purplish brown colour, crossed with narrow dusky lines; the quill feathers are dusky; the tail consists of sixteen black feathers, the four middlemost of which are barred with red; the thighs are a pale red, obscurely barred with black; the legs and feet are clothed down to the claws with thick, soft, white and brown feathers\*; the outer

\* They are the old birds only which are thus feathered to the claws, though it obtains, in some degree, in the *poults*. Young grouse are called *poults* till they are a year old.

and inner toes are connected to the first joint by a small membrane. The female is considerably less than the male, weighing only fifteen ounces. Her colours in general are less vivid, and she has more of the white and less of the red feathers than the male.

The heathy and mountainous parts of the northern counties of England are in general stocked with these birds; but they abound in the Highlands of Scotland, and are very common in Wales. They feed on mountain berries, and the tender tops of the heath.

Grouse pair very early in the spring, and the female lays from eight to twelve, or thirteen eggs, in a very simple nest, formed on the ground. The young leave the nest almost as soon as hatched, and continue to follow the hen till the severity of the winter sets in, when they unite in packs of twenty or thirty brace. They continue together in the greatest harmony till the approach of spring, when they begin to feel the access of genial desire, and the males view each other with a jealous eye, and furious battles are the consequence.

The care and stratagem of the hen for the security of the young are wonderful. If she perceive a dog approaching her brood, she will throw herself on the ground directly before his nose, with dreadful screaming, and manifest at the same time an apparently evident incapacity of flying. The dog eagerly pursues, expecting every moment to catch her: but when she has drawn him a sufficient distance from her treasure, she puts forth her powers, and leaves her astonished pursuer to follow her with his eyes alone.

Grouse shooting is very laborious, and requires both judgment and experience, particularly in mountains the sportsman is a stranger to. As the season is generally very hot, it becomes highly necessary to be clothed accordingly. The lighter the dress the better, taking care at the same time to let the garments next your skin chiefly consist of flannel. A flannel shirt and drawers are the best things that can be used for this purpose, and ought in fact to be considered as indispensably necessary. Flannel, though so capable of *administering*\* warmth, is, notwithstanding, a bad conductor of heat; and therefore if the sportsman habituates himself thus to wear flannel, he will experience no increase of heat in summer on that account; at the same time, it must be allowed, that nothing will so effectually absorb the moisture which arises from excessive perspiration, and consequently there can be no better preventive against taking cold. Some persons have an aversion to wearing flannel next the skin, and to such I would recommend calico, which is nearly of as much service, on account of its possessing a superior quality of absorption. In hot weather, to walk amongst the heath till a violent perspiration ensues, and then to become stationary for a little time (which will un-

\* I am aware that the word *administering* is not perfectly philosophical, though it will certainly convey the proper idea to the mind. The fact is, flannel prevents the heat of the body from escaping, or evaporating; and thus, though what philosophers call a *non-conductor* of heat, yet prevents the body from becoming cold. For a farther illustration of this subject, see Count Rumford's Essays.



doubtedly sometimes be the case in grouse shooting), is almost a sure method of taking a violent cold, if a linen shirt is worn next the skin; to say nothing of the disagreeable sensation it excites, by sticking to one's back. Short boots that lace close, but which are easy to the legs and feet, are to be recommended; for shoes, when you walk in the mountains, gather the tops of the heath, which will be very apt to rub the skin off your feet. It will be adviseable also to rub some tallow on your heels, the bottoms of your feet, and the knuckles of your toe, before you go out in the morning, which will not only cause you to walk easy, but prevent that soreness otherwise consequent to a hard day's grouse shooting. It is hardly necessary to mention that the brandy flask is a very essential appendage; to the bottom of which should be attached a tin cup, which will enable the sportsman to allay his thirst by mixing water with his brandy; rinsing the mouth will perhaps be found occasionally to answer the desired purpose. But on no account drink cold water alone; the fatal consequences of which, when a person is in a great perspiration, are too well known to need a description in this place.

For grouse shooting, it is very necessary to consult the barometer, as these birds can foresee the change of the weather, and shift their ground accordingly. When from the fall of the glass you expect bad weather, the birds will generally be found about midway on the hills; and in case of very bad weather, the butts of the mountains are the places they resort to; but in fine weather they will be found near the tops.

If in the morning you find them high, and in the evening low, bad weather may be expected, except it is for water they have descended, which is often the case; but of this the sportsman must form an opinion for himself.

These birds go to water immediately after their morning flight, which is the proper time to begin the day's diversion: from that time till the extreme heat of the day comes on (which is generally towards twelve o'clock) good sport may be obtained; as also from three till sun-set. Should the sportsman, however, be inclined to beat for game in the dead time of the day (which is from about half past eleven till three), let him be careful to hunt all the deep ruts he meets with, as grouse frequently creep in these to shelter themselves from the excessive heat of the sun; at this time also, they may be frequently found in mossy places.

In this diversion, be careful to give your dogs the wind, and also to try the sides of the mountains which are most sheltered: if it blows hard you will be certain to find the birds where the heath is longest; and when this unfortunately happens to be the case, grouse generally take long flights, and these too, are for the most part *down\** the wind, which is the very reverse of what most other fowls are known to do. There are other disagreeable circumstances attending a high wind, such as a difficulty in keeping the fowling piece steady, the flash of the pan blowing into the shooter's face; it also makes the eyes water, and renders walking very irksome.

\* That is, not against the wind.

On finding a pack of grouse, the old cock is generally the first that makes his appearance, and the first to take wing: if he has not been much disturbed, he will walk out before the dogs, making a *chucking* noise, and will frequently get up and *challenge*, without seeming to testify any symptoms of fear for himself; but by this he warns the hen and poults, which immediately begin to run and separate. The hen generally runs as far as she can from you, in order to draw your attention from the poults; and, if the poults are strong enough to shift for themselves, she will sometimes make off altogether, in which case good diversion will generally follow. The main object, however, should be to kill the old cock, which will most likely enable you to pick up the young ones, one after another, as in the beginning of the season they lie very close, and particularly after hearing the report of a gun, which terrifies them to such a degree, that you may sometimes take them up with your hand from under the dog's nose. When this happens, the ground cannot be beaten too carefully.

If the night should have been wet previous to the day of shooting, grouse will not *lie*. They will erect their heads and run; and the only chance the sportsman has of getting within shot is to run also; which is certainly not to be recommended, as it will spoil your dogs; for, seeing you run, they will do the same: you must keep your eye on the birds too while they are running, which renders you liable to fall, and bend your gun, and various other disagreeable incidents. Whenever the birds are *tickled*, a brown dog is



preferable to all others, and for reasons which have been assigned before.

Of all shooting, none is so laborious, either for man or dog, as that of *grouse*; the sportsman ought, therefore, to be provided with plenty of dogs; and one brace of good ones at a time will be found sufficient to be properly attended to. Three brace of dogs are quite sufficient; and indeed two brace, properly managed, will be found to afford plenty of diversion. By allowing your first couple of dogs to hunt only half the day, they will be sufficiently refreshed to hunt the next morning.

Burning heath on the mountains, as it is done chiefly in the spring, is very destructive to grouse; for by this means numbers of nests are destroyed. There is an Act of Parliament against it; yet the practice is winked at, on account of the benefit derived therefrom by the owner of the mountain. The burnt heath manures the ground, and causes grass to spring. Care, however, should be taken in burning; as, in a dry season seconded by a high wind, it has not only set the mountain in a blaze, but communicated the flames to several adjoining woods:—a circumstance of this description happened a few years ago.

Grouse are very difficult to be netted, owing to the straggling manner in which they lie, and their scattering on the approach of the sportsman, or the least noise. Two or three brace are the most that can be taken in this way, and very seldom so many.

With respect to *black grouse*, or as they are called in Scotland, *black cocks*, or *black game*, they are found

on the edges of the moors, and the old cock will frequently be some way in on the mountains. They lie as close as they can to stubble fields, where they frequently feed. They perch occasionally on rails and trees, and in this situation will often suffer the sportsman to approach within gun-shot. The cock weighs about four pounds, and is much larger than the hen. When served up to table, the flesh on the breast is brown for a quarter of an inch, and beneath delicately white.

As it frequently happens, that grouse are sent to great distances after being killed, and in hot weather too it is with great difficulty they are kept sweet, Thornhill advises the following method for this purpose, and asserts that it is the best hitherto discovered—I shall give it in this gentleman's *own* language.—“ If you wish to send your game to any distance, never draw it, particularly a grouse, that is, do not follow the usual directions of taking out the entrails. The best mode is not to pack them till they are perfectly dry: first of all procure bladders, and put a brace or more in one, if the bladder will contain them; tie the bladder tight round the neck, and seal it with sealing-wax, to prevent the air from getting in; and in that state, if they are put into boxes, they will keep for three weeks, if required.” This may be a good method, and I am inclined to believe it is, though I never tried it; but the method used by many is that of putting a little beath in the bottom of the box, and wrapping the birds separately in paper, and this too without having them drawn.

## THE PARTRIDGE.

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THE partridge is a bird well known all over the world, as it is found in every country and every climate, as well in the frozen region near the poles, as the burning tracts of the equator. Wherever it resides, it seems to adapt itself to the nature of the climate. In Greenland, the partridge is brown in summer; but as soon as the icy weather sets in, its outward plumage assumes the colour of the snows among which it seeks its food, and becomes clothed with a warm down beneath. Thus the latter defends it from the extreme cold, and the former prevents its being so easily seen by its enemies. Those of Barakonda are longer legged, much swifter of foot, and choose the highest rocks and precipices to reside in. Partridges, however, all agree in one general character, of being immoderately addicted to venery; and if we are to credit some writers even to an unnatural degree; certain it is the cock bird will pursue the hen to the nest, and break her eggs rather than not indulge his inclinations.

In England there are two kinds of partridge, the grey and the red; the former of which is by far the best known, and most deserving of attention. It is of a cowardly disposition, fearful, and simple, and easily



deceived or beguiled with many devices, particularly that of being driven into a tunnel-net, by which poachers seldom miss taking the whole covey at once.

These birds, in general, pair about the second week in February; but in this respect they are much influenced by the weather; as, in a mild season, they are found in pairs as early as January; should, however, the weather afterwards prove severe, they again assemble in numbers, which by sportsmen are called *packs*.

Their nest consists of a few blades of withered grass and leaves, constructed without art, and chiefly found in corn-fields, amongst clover, long grass, or in the bottoms of hedges. There is an instance related, in the *Animal Biography*, of a partridge, in the year 1788, forming her nest, and hatching sixteen eggs, on *the top of a pollard oak tree*, on a farm called Lion Hall, in Essex, belonging to Colonel Hawker. We are told that when the brood were hatched, they scrambled down the short and rough boughs, which grew out all round from the trunk of the tree, and reached the ground in safety!

The female lays from thirteen to twenty eggs, and sometimes more, about the size of a pigeon's, but more obtuse, and of a greyish colour. The period of incubation is three weeks; and so closely do they sit on their eggs, particularly when near hatching, that frequent instances have occurred of partridges being cut in two by a scythe.

The great hatch is about the first ten days in June, and the earliest birds begin to fly towards the latter

end of that month. Should a partridge's nest be destroyed, she generally lays again; and this brood, which is termed by sportsmen *clacking*, is not game till October. These birds are always weak, and are frequently destroyed by the rigours of winter.

The young brood are able to run as soon as they are hatched; and are indeed sometimes seen carrying part of their shell. The parents lead them immediately to ant-hills, the eggs of which insects constitute at first their principal food. The excellence of this food for young partridges may be ascertained by those bred up under a hen, which, if properly supplied with it, seldom fail of arriving at maturity.

The affection of these birds for their young is peculiarly interesting. Both the cock and hen lead them out to feed, point out the proper places for finding it, as well as teach them the method, by scratching the earth with their feet, after the manner of a domestic hen: they cover them also in the same manner with their wings, and from this situation they are not easily roused: if, however, they are disturbed, much confusion ensues. The cock, by a peculiar cry of distress, is the first to give the alarm, at the same time throwing himself apparently in the danger, in order to give his companion an opportunity of conducting her brood to a place of safety, while he, by his fluttering along the ground, and exhibiting every appearance of debility, endeavours to mislead the enemy.—Mr. Markwick relates, that as he was once hunting with a young pointer, the dog ran on a brood of very small partridges. The old bird uttered the most piercing cry, fluttered, hung

down her wings, and tumbled along just before the dog's nose, till she had drawn him to a considerable distance, when she took wing and flew farther off, but not out of the field. On this, the dog returned nearly to the place where the young ones lay concealed in the grass; which the old bird no sooner perceived than she flew back, and tumbled just before the dog's nose, and again acted the same part, tumbling and rolling before him, till she drew off his attention from her brood, and thus succeeded in preserving them.

The partridge, when reared by the hand, soon neglects those who have the care of it; and on its full growth, generally estranges itself altogether from the house where it was bred. Among the very few instances of the partridge remaining tame was that of one reared by the Rev. Mr. Bird. This, after its full growth, attended the parlour at breakfast and other times, received food from any hand that gave it, and stretched itself before the fire, the warmth of which it seemed much to enjoy. It was at length destroyed by a cat.

Partridges are not equally abundant every year, as their number depends much upon the weather, not only during incubation, but also from the time they are hatched till they become strong and have plenty of feathers. If it is very wet while they are sitting, it is very apt to chill the eggs, and then they perish; and often when the young ones leave the shell, the cold or rain benumbs them (as they are at this time both weak and tender) and they die. But if the months of June and July are dry, you may expect an abundance. It is certainly a mistaken notion that in a very dry season



young partridges are lost by falling into the crevices of the ground caused by the heat; as the season cannot be too dry for them.

The cock partridge weighs about fourteen ounces, the hen twelve. While they are young and their plumage is not complete, they may be distinguished from the old ones by the first feather of the wing, which terminates in a point like a lancet; whereas in those which are not of the last brood, this feather is round at the extremity; but this distinction ceases after the first moulting:—also, the bill of the young bird is brown, while that of the old one is a bluish white; the legs of the old one are grey, those of the young, yellow. When they become game (or as termed by sportsmen *black tails*), the cock in general may be distinguished by the bay feathers on his breast, forming a sort of horse-shoe. This, however, is by no means a certain rule. Mr. Montagu informs us, that happening to kill nine birds one day, with very little variation as to the bay marks on the breast, he was induced to open them all, and discovered that five of them were females. On carefully examining the plumage, he found that the males could only be known by the superior brightness of colour about the head, which, after the first or second year seems the only certain mark or distinction. The truth of Mr. Montagu's assertions the compiler has witnessed in a similar way; and therefore I am not inclined to credit the account of Mr. Thornhill, although he roundly asserts this as a certain distinction. In the last-mentioned gentleman's Shooting Directory, when speaking of the first

feather in the wing of the young birds terminating like a lancet, he adds, "this remains only until the first moulting, and in those birds which are not of the *first* brood, this feather is round at the extremity." But it would be an endless task to enumerate the errors with which this book abounds.

Pointers and setters are used for shooting partridges; and the latter, the compiler is of opinion, are preferable in a rough country, or where birds are scarce; but the pointer is perhaps equal to the setter, where game is very plentiful, and in an open country; and in this case, two staunch dogs are fully sufficient, and as much as the sportsmen will be able to manage with success. The best time for this amusement is from two hours after sun-rise until twelve o'clock; and from half past two or three o'clock until it is dark. When the weather is very dry, especially at the beginning of the season, as soon as the sun becomes strong the scent *sinks* (to use the sportsman's phrase) and the dog's abilities and cunning are put to the test to no purpose. In the middle of the day, partridges cease to feed or run, and generally place themselves by the side of some sunny bank in order to bask.

In general they have their separate feeding and sleeping places; but it frequently happens, that they remain all day or all night where they fed the preceding evening or morning; yet it much oftener happens that they change their ground. At day break, they *call*, and, when collected, generally take their flight to the stubbles, which if high and thick enough to

afford them shelter, will most likely induce them to remain there till disturbed: however, in dry weather in particular, they are frequently to be found at this time among potatoes. After feeding in the evening, they again *call*, and fly to the place where they intend to remain for the night. When they are *calling*, they seldom *lie* well, or, in other words, will not permit the sportsman to approach within gun-shot.

Thornhill says—"It is very singular that sportsmen find *one-third* of each covey of partridges to be cocks; at the time therefore of breeding they contend greatly with each other for the hens." I suppose this sapient gentleman means *two-thirds* are found to be cocks. Certain it is, that frequently more male than female birds are found in a covey; and when this happens to be the case at pairing time, battles among the young cocks will undoubtedly ensue; and when the hen is tormented by a number of cocks, she runs about continually to avoid them, and perhaps drops her eggs here and there till such time as there remains but one cock for her, and no nest.

The cocks may be easily destroyed by netting the coveys at the beginning of the season, and then killing them, so as to leave no more cocks than hens. Thornhill says, there should be fewer cocks than hens left, and adds, that the hen will be certain to find a cock; however, he should have recollected that partridges are birds that pair, and that at that season one cock does not associate with two hens: it is therefore ridiculous to give directions to leave fewer cocks than hens, and then to say that every hen will be sure to find



a cock. The compiler is of opinion, that the old cock, in particular, should be destroyed, as, where old birds are left, they will at pairing time drive off the young ones, and prevent their breeding near the same spot.

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## THE PHEASANT.

THE pheasant is a foreign bird, and was brought into Europe from the banks of the Phasis, a river of Colchis, in Asia Minor, whence the name which it still retains.

Nothing can satisfy the eye with a greater variety and richness of ornament than this beautiful creature. The iris of the eye is yellow, and the eyes themselves are surrounded with a scarlet colour, sprinkled with small specks of black. On the fore part of the head there are blackish feathers, mixed with a shining purple. The top of the head, and the upper part of the neck, are tinged with a darkish green that shines like silk. In some, the top of the head is of a shining blue, and the head itself, as well as the upper part of the neck, appears sometimes blue and sometimes green, as it is differently placed to the eye of the spectator. The feathers of the breast, the shoulders, the middle of the back, and the sides under the wings, have a blackish ground, with edges tinged of an exquisite colour, which appear sometimes black and sometimes purple, according to the different situations in which it is seen; under the purple there is a transverse streak of a gold colour. The tail, from the middle feathers

to the root, is about eighteen inches long; the legs, the feet, and the toes, are of the colour of horn: there are black spurs on the legs, shorter than those of the common farm-yard cock, and a membrane that connects two of the toes together; the female is not nearly so beautiful as the male.

If we except the peacock, the pheasant is perhaps the most beautiful of all the feathered tribe, as well for the vivid colour of its plumes, as for their happy mixture and variety. It is far beyond the power of the pencil to draw any thing so glossy, so bright, or points so finely blending into each other. And, though so beautiful to the eye, this bird is not less delicate when served up to table. Its flesh is considered as the greatest dainty; and when the physicians of old spoke of the wholesomeness of any viands, they made their comparison with the flesh of the pheasant.

This bird, though taken from its native, warm retreats, where the woods supply variety of food, and the warm sun suits its tender constitution, has still continued its attachment to native freedom; and, as if disdaining the protection of man, has left him to take shelter in the remotest forests, where it feeds upon acorns, and the scanty produce of our chilling climate. Great pains, however, are taken by the owners of parks and manors, to preserve this bird from the depredations of the sportsman; but, notwithstanding all precaution, they frequently stray from preserved covers never to return. This spirit of independence seems to attend the pheasant even in captivity. In a wild state, the hen pheasant lays from fifteen to

twenty eggs; but when domesticated seldom more than ten. Also, when at liberty, she hatches and rears her brood with patience, vigilance, and courage; but when kept tame, she never sits well (and frequently will not sit at all), so that a domestic hen is generally substituted on such occasions; nor when in captivity does she seem to be conscious of the necessity of leading her young to their food; and the brood would quickly perish if left solely to her protection. This beautiful bird, therefore, seems better left at large, as its fecundity is sufficient to stock the forest, its elegant plumage adorns it, and its flesh retains a higher flavour from its unlimited freedom.

Pheasants do not pair like partridges; the cock is very salacious, and is sufficient for a number of hens. They are much attached to thickets and woods, where the grass is very long; but they frequently breed also in clover fields. They form their nests on the ground, much in the same manner as the partridge; and their eggs are smaller than those of a domestic hen. In mowing clover near the woods frequented by these birds, the destruction of their eggs is sometimes very great: gamekeepers, therefore, should be careful to drive them from clover fields as soon as they begin to lay, until their haunt is broken, and they retire into the corn, or some place more secure. The young ones, like partridges, follow the mother as soon as they have broken the shell; and they remain amongst the stubbles, and in the bottoms of hedges, for some time after the corn is ripe, if they are undisturbed; in case of the contrary, they then seek the covers, whence they issue



morning and evening to feed, as long as food is to be found among the stubbles; when corn no longer remains, they feed on acorns, and the wild berries of the woods.

Pheasant shooting is very laborious, and requires the sportsman to be properly equipped for a cover; and in my opinion strong fustian gaiters are preferable to leather; as in wet weather, the latter are very uncomfortable, and the former are a sufficient guard against the briars, &c.

If the night before you shoot be wet, the droppings of the trees will compel the pheasants to quit the woods; and in this case the hedge-rows and furze covers should be tried very carefully, and good sport will most likely be obtained. This bird is much attached to almost all sorts of covers, especially to the sides of pits where alder trees are growing.

Of all dogs none are so good for this sport as the setter (see the article *Setter*). But nothing can be more ridiculous than to use bells in this diversion, since, most undoubtedly, as little noise as possible should be used. Pointers are in general too tender, and *foot* too slowly for this bird; they are also afraid of the brambles, which is not the case with a good setter; but care should be taken never to let them range out of gun-shot.—The small springing spaniel is frequently used in pheasant shooting, and may answer tolerably well in the beginning of the season, or where the birds have not been much disturbed; but they are by no means equal to the setter. The springer is too noisy for this diversion; whereas a pheasant, when

found by a setter, will frequently, instead of going off, rise into a tree and *challenge*\*, which rarely happens with the former.

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## THE WOODCOCK.

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THIS bird has a long, slender, straight bill. The nostrils are linear, and lodged in a furrow. The head is entirely covered with feathers. The feet have four toes, the hind one of which is very short, and consists of several joints. The female woodcock may be distinguished from the male by a narrow stripe of white along the lower part of the exterior veil of the outermost feather of the wing. The same part in the outermost feather of the male is elegantly and regularly spotted with black and reddish white. In the bastard wing of both is a small pointed, narrow feather, very elastic, and much sought after by painters, as it makes a good pencil.

The woodcock during summer is an inhabitant of Norway, Sweden, Lapland, and other northern countries, where it breeds. But when winter approaches, the severe frosts of these northern latitudes, by depriving it of food, force it southward to milder climates. These birds arrive in Great Britain in flocks; some of them in October, but not in great numbers till November and December. They generally take advantage of the night, being seldom seen to come before

\* Make a chuckling noise,

sun-set. The time of their arrival depends much upon the prevailing winds; they are unable to struggle with the boisterous gales of the northern ocean, and therefore they wait for the advantage of a favourable wind. When they have had bad weather to encounter on their passage, they are frequently so much exhausted on their arrival as to suffer themselves to be seized by the hand. In very stormy weather, we are told they occasionally take refuge in the rigging of vessels at sea, and that numbers are frequently lost in their passage.

They feed on worms and insects, which they search for, with their long bills, in soft ground and moist woods, feeding and flying principally in the night. They go out in the evening, and generally return in the same direction, or through the same glades, to their day retreat.

The greater part of them leave this country about the latter end of February or the beginning of March, always pairing before they set out; and, at this time, may be sometimes heard to utter a small piping noise. They retire to the coast, and, if the wind be favourable, set out immediately; but if contrary, they are often detained for some time, and thus afford excellent diversion to those sportsmen who reside near the sea. The instant, however, a fair wind springs up, they embrace the opportunity; and where the sportsman has seen hundreds in one day, he will not find even a single bird the next.

Very few of them breed in England; and perhaps in those that do, it may be owing to their having been



so wounded by the sportsmen in the winter, as to be disabled from taking their long journey in spring. They build their nests on the ground, generally at the foot of some tree, and lay four or five eggs, about the size of those of a pigeon, of a rusty colour, and marked with brown spots. They are remarkably tame during incubation:—A person who discovered a woodcock on its nest, often stood over, and even stroked it; notwithstanding which, it hatched the young, and in due time disappeared with them.—A single bird was observed to remain in a coppice belonging to a gentleman in Dorsetshire through the summer. The place, from its shady and moist situation, was well calculated to maintain it; yet by degrees, it lost almost all its feathers, so that for some time it was unable to fly, and was often caught; but in the autumn it recovered its strength and feathers, and flew away.

It has been remarked in England, that for some years past, woodcocks have become scarce; which seems to be easily accounted for:—Sweden is making (and has been for some time) a gradual progress in the arts of luxury, among which the indulgence of the palate fills no undistinguished place. The eggs of wild fowl have of late become a great delicacy among the inhabitants of that country, who encourage the boors to find out their nests. The eggs of the woodcock they prefer to all others; and, in consequence of their high price, they are anxiously sought by the country people, and offered for sale in large quantities in the markets of Stockholm and other places. The flesh of

this bird, however, they deem unwholesome, from the circumstance of its having no crop.

Woodcocks generally weigh from twelve to fourteen ounces, and are chiefly found in thick covers, particularly those with wet bottoms, and underneath holly bushes; they are not, however, fond of covers where there is long grass growing in the bottom, and at the roots of the trees. In mild weather they are to be found chiefly in the open country, in hedge-rows, &c. but a severe frost forces them to the thickest covers, and to springs and small running streams that are sheltered with trees or underwood.

The sight of the woodcock is very indifferent in the day time, but he sees better in the dusk of the evening and by moonlight; and it may also be remarked, that woodcocks will lie much better the day following a moonlight night, than when it has been preceded by a very dark one:—the reason is obvious—the bird has been enabled by the light of the moon to make a plentiful repast, and the next day is lazy and unwilling to fly; whereas when the darkness of the night has rendered it impossible for him to satisfy the calls of hunger, he is constantly uneasy, and on the alert in search of food, which he never attempts to seek in the day-time but when necessity compels him.

Shooting woodcocks is a very pleasant amusement in woods which are not too thick; and, if they are cut through in several places, it renders it more easy to shoot this bird in his passage when he springs, and also to mark him with greater certainty; and woodcocks will generally be found near the openings or

roads through the wood if there are any. In this diversion, a good marker is of essential service; for with his assistance it will be difficult for a woodcock to escape; as he will generally suffer himself to be shot at three or four times, before he takes a long flight.

Small spaniels, called springers, are frequently used for this diversion (see the head *Springer*) and give notice when the cock rises by barking: these animals when well trained may answer very well; and in fact they are better adapted for this than pheasant shooting. But a good setter will be found, even in cock shooting, to be fully equal, if not better, than the springer (see the head *Setter*). But pointers are not well adapted for this sport, for reasons which may be found under the last mentioned head.

The woodcock is a clumsy walker, and rises heavily from the ground, which I believe is the case with most (or all) birds that have long wings, and short legs. When he is found in an open field, in a hedge row, in the pass of a wood, or an unfrequented lane, he generally skims the ground slowly, and is very easily shot; in fact, thus circumstanced, he is the easiest of shots; but it is occasionally otherwise, particularly when he is flushed in a tall wood, where he is obliged to clear the tops of the trees before he can take a horizontal direction; at which time, he frequently rises very high, and with great rapidity, and it becomes very difficult to seize the moment of shooting, by reason of the turnings and twistings which he is obliged to make, in order to pass between the trees.



In this diversion a person is generally employed as a beater, which is highly necessary, and may be very useful at the same time in marking. But it is quite wrong to assert (as most writers on this subject have done) that *too much noise cannot be made*.—There is no doubt but more noise may be used in woodcock shooting than any other without injury; yet all that is necessary is what the beater makes with his staff in the thickets or hedges, and more than this will be found injurious.—As to making use of bells in this diversion, the custom is a bad one.

There have been several white woodcocks shot at different times in England. A Mr. Dixon, of Liverpool, shot a brace of woodcocks a few years back in the month of June, somewhere in the neighbourhood of Liverpool; but they were much lighter than these birds are generally found in the winter season, which arose no doubt from the scarcity of their provision.

Woodcocks are generally supposed to be more plentiful in Ireland, than either England, Wales, or Scotland. But I believe they were never known so scarce as in the last season (the winter of 1808 and 1809) which perhaps might arise in some measure from the reason already assigned in the former part of this article; and numbers might also be lost in the stormy weather which prevailed about the time of their emigration from the north.

## THE SNIPE.

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**AFTER** having given a particular description of the woodcock, it will only be necessary to observe, that the plumage and shape of the snipe is much the same; and indeed its habits and manners bear a great analogy. But there are three different sizes of snipes, the largest of which, however, is much smaller than the woodcock. The common snipe weighs about four ounces, the jack snipe is not much bigger than a lark; the large snipe weighs about nine ounces, but is seldom met with. Some suppose that the common snipe is the jack's female; I must, however, own myself of a different opinion; but, as the discussion of this point is more properly the business of the naturalist, I shall proceed to the more immediate object of the sportsman.

Snipes are to be found all the winter in wet and marshy grounds, particularly where there are rushes; they are frequently to be found on mountains and moors among the heath, but a severe frost forces them to springs and running streams. Numbers of these birds remain with us all the year, and breed in our marshes, laying generally six eggs the latter end of May.

The snipe is generally regarded as a difficult shot; and it must be allowed that it requires practice to surmount this difficulty, which arises from the zig-zag

manner in which the bird flies immediately after rising. The best method to pursue in this diversion is to walk down the wind, as snipes generally fly against it; and if a snipe rises before the sportsman, it will not fly far before it turns, and describes a sort of semicircle, which will afford more time to take aim, by thus remaining longer within gun-shot. If, however, the bird should fly straight forward, it will be highly proper to let it get some little distance, as its flight will become much steadier than on first rising. The slightest wound is sufficient to bring these birds to the ground; and indeed I once fired at a snipe, which fell; and on picking it up I could not observe a feather discomposed, nor any wound about it:—I plucked it, and not the slightest mark of violence appeared. I am induced to suppose that a pallet of shot slantingly struck its bill.

An old pointer is the best in snipe shooting. To accustom a young dog to snipes, slacks his mettle, and renders him useless for partridge or grouse, by getting a number of points without any exertion. However, when these birds are plentiful a dog is unnecessary, as walking them up will answer equally well. But at all events, a dog used for grouse shooting should never be taken to set snipes, as it will not only injure him, but cause disappointment to the sportsman, as these birds are common enough on the moors in the grousing season; and a shooter would be mortified to walk up to a steady set, expecting grouse, and find a jack-snipe rise before him.



## THE HARE.

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IT was originally my intention not to have mentioned this animal, as it is, strictly speaking, an improper object for the *shooting* sportsman; in fact, there is an act of parliament, which subjects a person to a penalty of 20s. for shooting a hare; but as this act is never enforced, and the practice of shooting these animals has become so very general, this work might perhaps be deemed incomplete, without a few remarks on this head.

The hare is one of the most timid animals in nature; fearful of every danger, and attentive to every alarm, it is continually upon the watch; and being provided with very long ears, which are moveable at pleasure, and easily directed to any quarter, it is warned of the distant approach of its enemies. As the hare is destitute of the means of defence, nature has endowed it with powers of evasion in a superior degree: every part and member of this animal seems peculiarly formed for celerity, and it is consequently one of the swiftest quadrupeds in the world. Its hind legs are much longer than the fore ones, and are furnished with strong muscles, which give this creature a singular advantage in running up a hill; and of this it appears very sensible, as it is generally observed to fly towards rising ground when first started.

The eyes of the hare are large and prominent, and adapted to receive the rays of light on every side: they are constantly open, even while sleeping, as her eyelids are too short to cover them; and they are so situated as to enable her, while sitting in her *form*, to observe every thing around her.

The colour of this animal is another great means of preservation, as it often so much resembles the ground on which it sits, as not to be easily distinguished. In the cold countries near the pole, where the ground is covered the greatest part of the year with snow, the hare becomes white, which consequently renders it less conspicuous in those frigid regions.

Thus formed for escape, it might be supposed the hare would enjoy a state of tolerable security; but, although harmless and inoffensive in itself, it has no friend. Dogs of all kinds, as well as foxes, pursue it seemingly by instinct; wild cats, weasels, &c. catch and destroy it; birds of prey are still more dangerous enemies: while man, more powerful than all, makes use of every artifice to obtain a creature, which constitutes one of the numerous delicacies of his table.

According to naturalists, the hare lives six or seven years, and attains its full growth in one. It engenders sometimes before it is a year old. The buck seeks the doe, principally from the month of December to the month of March. The female goes with young thirty or thirty-one days, and brings forth generally two young ones, though they have been known to produce three or four, and deposits them in a tuft

of grass or heath, or in a little bush, without any preparation whatever.

The ridiculous assertions which some writers on natural history have made, viz. of hares being generally hermaphrodites, of their changing their sex every month, &c. are too glaringly absurd, to need a detailed refutation in this place. The circumstance which seems to have given rise to these strange conjectures, is the formation of the genital parts of the male hare, whose testicles do not appear externally, especially when he is young, being contained in the same cover with the intestines. Another reason is, that on the side of the penis, which is scarcely to be distinguished, there is an oblong and deep slit; the orifice of which, in some measure, resembles the *vulva* of the female. Sportsmen, therefore, seldom look at the genital parts of a hare to distinguish its sex, but resort to other marks, by which this point is more easily ascertained. Thus; the head of the male is more short and round, the whiskers longer, the shoulders more ruddy, and the ears shorter and broader than those of the female; the head of which is long and narrow, the ears long and sharp at the tip, the fur of the back of a grey colour, inclining to black, and in point of size is larger than the male.

There is also considerable difference in the feet. In the male the feet are small and pointed, and the nails short; whereas, in the female, they are much larger, and more spread; the nails also are much longer. The *buttons*\* of the male are shorter and smaller

\* The dung.



than those of the female; and the *scut*\* also is smaller.

Two species of hares may be distinguished; those of the wood and those of the plain. The hares of the wood are in general much larger than those of the open ground; the fur is not of so dark a colour, and they are better covered with it; they are also swifter in the chace, and their flesh has a better flavour. Among the hares of the plain, those may be distinguished which inhabit the marshes; they are not so swift of foot, they are less covered with fur, and their flesh is not so fine and delicate.

A young hare, that has attained the full growth, is known from an old one by feeling the knee joints of the fore legs with the thumb nail. When the heads of the two bones, which form the joints, are so contiguous, that little or no space is to be perceived between them, the hare is old. If, on the contrary, there is a perceptible separation, the hare is young; and is more or less so in proportion to the separation of the bones. It may also be known whether a hare is old or young, but without pretending to ascertain the precise age, by compressing the under jaw-bones; if they break at the point immediately under the fore teeth, upon a slight degree of pressure, the hare is certainly a young one; but if considerable force is required, the contrary is as certain.

N. B. The best method of taking aim, &c. at these animals, will be found under the head **SHOOTING**.

\* The tail.

## THE FOWLING-PIECE.

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I AM perfectly aware that a large volume might be written on this subject; but, as my intention is to give only such information and instruction as is necessary for the sportsman, I shall forbear introducing any extraneous matter; at the same time, being careful to omit nothing which can be useful, even in the remotest degree. That the fowling-piece is an object of the first consideration, will be readily allowed; hence the necessity of being able to form an opinion of its merits prior to laying out a considerable sum of money on this article, as well as to prevent those dreadful accidents which too frequently occur from this engine of destruction.

The first thing which most obviously offers to view under this head, is the *barrel*; which, from its nature, is liable to the following imperfections, viz. the *chink*, the *crack*, and the *flaw*. The *chink* is a solution of continuity, running lengthwise of the barrel. The *crack* is a solution of continuity, more irregular in its form than the *chink*, and running in a transverse direction, or across the barrel. The *flaw* differs from both: it is a small plate or scale which adheres to the barrel by a narrow base, from which it spreads out as the head of a nail does from its shank; and, when separated, leaves a pit or hollow in the metal.

The chink and flaw are to be regarded as much more dangerous than the crack; as the efforts of the powder is exerted upon the circumference, and not upon the length, of the barrel. The flaw is much more frequent than the chink; but the latter will frequently occur, where the iron is of an inferior quality. All these defects, however, when only external and superficial, are of no material consequence, except in point of neatness; but when situated within the barrel, they become a very serious and even dangerous disadvantage, by affording a lodgment to moisture and filth that corrode the iron, and thus continually enlarge the excavation till the barrel bursts.

A *common* gun-barrel is formed in the following manner:—The workmen begin by heating and hammering out a bar of iron into the form of a flat ruler, thinner at the end intended for the muzzle, and thicker at that for the breech; the length, breadth, and thickness of the whole plate, being regulated by the intended length, diameter, and weight, of the barrel. This oblong plate of iron is then, by repeated heating and hammering, turned round a cylindrical rod of tempered iron, called a mandril, whose diameter is considerably less than the intended bore of the barrel. The edges of the plate are made to overlap each other about half an inch, and are welded together by heating the tube in lengths of two or three inches at a time, and hammering it upon an anvil that has a number of semi-circular furrows in it, adapted to the various sizes of barrels; and, by this means, the



whole of the barrel is rendered as perfectly continuous as if it had been bored out of a solid piece.

The barrel, when forged, is either finished in the common way, or made to undergo the operation of *twisting*; which is a process employed on those barrels which are intended to be of a superior quality and price to others. This operation consists in heating the barrel in portions of a few inches at a time, to a high degree of red heat; when one end of it is screwed into a vice, and into the other is introduced a square piece of iron, with a handle similar to that of an augur; and by means of these, the fibres of the heated portion are twisted in a spiral direction, which has been found to resist the efforts of the powder better than a longitudinal one.

The next operation is, that of giving the barrel its proper calibre, which is called boring. The boring-bit is a rod of iron, somewhat longer than the barrel; one end being made to fit the socket of the crank, and the other being furnished with a cylindrical plug of tempered steel, about an inch and a half in length, and having its surface cut in the manner of a perpetual screw; the threads being flat, about a quarter of an inch in breadth, and running with very little obliquity. The form gives the bit a very strong hold of the metal; and the threads, being sharp at the edges, scoop out and remove every roughness and inequality from the inside of the barrel, and render the cavity smooth and equal throughout. A number of bits, each a little larger than the preceding one, are afterwards successively passed through the barrel in

the same way, until it has acquired the intended calibre. It is hardly necessary to observe, that the equality of the bore is so essential to the excellence of the piece, that the utmost perfection, in every other respect, will by no means compensate for the want of it; and the merits of a barrel, in this particular, may be ascertained with tolerable accuracy by means of a plug of lead, cast on a rod of iron or wood; or even by a musket-ball, filed so as to exactly fit the bore, and pushed through the barrel by the ramrod; care being taken not to use an iron ramrod, or much force exerted, lest the ball be flattened, and an artificial difficulty created. Thus, if the bullet move regularly through, there is every reason to be satisfied with the equality of the bore; but if, in passing it through, it move irregularly, that is, in some places quicker than in others, the bore is not true, and the barrel is consequently to be regarded as a bad one.

N. B. Of late, there have been some improvements made, by which barrels are bored with greater expedition; but as these improvements would throw no further light on the nature of gun-barrels, I shall forbear enumerating them.

In this state the barrel comes into the hands of the gunsmiths, who polish the inside, and file the outside quite round, except the lower part, which it is now the fashion to leave with eight sides. This octagonal form of the lower part may appear more handsome, for aught I know, but it serves to make the barrel heavier, without adding in the least to its strength; since the effort of the powder will always be sustained

by the thinnest part of the circumference, without any regard to those places that are thicker than the rest. Great pains are always taken to render the circumference of the barrel very even throughout, which is indispensably necessary, in order to render it perfectly sound and secure.

The last operation is that of colouring the barrel; previous to which it is polished with fine emery and oil, until it is rendered perfectly smooth and equal. It was formerly the custom to colour barrels, by exposing them to a degree of heat, which produced an elegant blue tinge; but as this effect arises from a degree of calcination taking place upon the surface of the metal, the inside of the barrel consequently sustained considerable injury; and this practice, therefore, has been disused for many years. It is now the custom to *brown* barrels; which is done by rubbing the barrel over with aqua-fortis, or spirit of salts, diluted with water, and laying it by until a complete coat of rust is formed upon it; a little oil is then applied, and the surface being rubbed dry, is polished with a hard brush and bees-wax. This is not the only method to render barrels of a fine brown; it may be done (by the sportsman himself, if he thinks proper), by first rubbing the barrel bright with sand-paper, to take off all greasiness; and afterwards fit a stick into the muzzle to hold it by. Bruise half an ounce of stone brimstone, and sprinkle it over a gentle fire; hold the barrel over the smoke, at the same time moving it about, until all parts become equally tinged; then place it in a damp situation until the next day, when you will



find a fine rust thrown out, over which you may draw your finger, to spread it even over the barrel; let it remain another day, after which it should be polished as above described.

When barrels are intended for a double gun, they are dressed to their proper thickness, which is generally less than for single barrels; and each of them is filed flat on the side where it is to join the other, so that they may fit closely together. Two corresponding notches are then made at the muzzle and breech of each barrel; and into these are fitted two small pieces of iron to hold them more strongly together. The barrels being united by tinning the parts where they touch, the ribs are fitted in, and made fast by the same means. These ribs are the pieces of iron which are placed between the barrels, running on the upper and under sides their whole length, and serving to hold them more firmly together. When the barrels are thus joined, they are polished and coloured in the manner already described.

*Twisted* barrels are deservedly celebrated for their superior elegance and strength. The iron employed in them is formed of old horse-shoe nails, which are originally made of the softest and toughest iron that can be procured; and this is still further purified by the numerous heatings and hammerings it has undergone, in being reduced from a bar into the size and form of nails. Twenty-eight pounds of these stubs are required, to make a single barrel of the ordinary size. These barrels are twisted into a spiral form, by means of the anvil and hammers alone, which is not the case with the common barrels; the method of

twisting which has been before described. These barrels are finished in the same way as the common ones. Stub iron is also wrought into plain barrels, which, as they require much less labour, are only half the price of the twisted ones.

The French *canons à rubans*, or *ribbon barrels*, very much resemble the twisted barrels of the English; and the acknowledged superiority of twisted and ribbon barrels over plain ones, has induced many persons to counterfeit them, by colouring plain barrels, so as to shew a spiral line running from one end to the other. This is produced by wetting a thread with diluted aqua-fortis, or spirit of salt, and winding it in a spiral direction round a plain barrel, so that a coat of rust may be formed where the thread touches. When the acid is applied the second time over the whole barrel, the part over which the thread has passed, by being more rusted than the rest, shews a dark line winding round the barrel; and renders it, when well finished, scarcely distinguishable from the ribbon or twisted barrel. Other barrels are, by similar means, clouded in an irregular manner, so as to resemble those made of stub-iron. To prove, therefore, whether a barrel is what it appears to be, it will be necessary to fix upon any part of the under side that is covered by the stock; and having cleared a small space with a fine file, apply a feather, dipped in aqua-fortis, which, in a little time, will render the fibres of the metal distinctly visible, when it will consequently be easy to ascertain in what direction they run.

Spanish barrels have always been held in great

esteem, as well on account of the quality of the iron, which has generally been considered as the best in Europe, as because they possess the reputation of being forged and bored with greater accuracy than any others. It will here be necessary to observe, that of the Spanish barrels, those alone are accounted truly valuable, which are made at Madrid; and in consequence of this predilection, numbers have been manufactured in other parts of Spain (particularly at Catalonia, in Biscay, with the names and marks of the Madrid gun-makers). They have been also counterfeited at Liege, Prague, Munich, &c. and with that nicety too, that a person must be a very good judge, not to be deceived by these spurious barrels.

The barrels which bear the highest price, and are the most sought after by the curious in this way, are those made by artists which have been dead many years; though, I am inclined to think, this preference has no better foundation than the common prejudice in favour of things that are the production of remote ages or distant countries.

Madrid barrels are composed of the old shoes of horses and mules, collected for the purpose; and an idea may be formed of the great purity to which the iron is brought in the course of the operation, when it is known, that to make a barrel, which, rough from the forge, weighs only six or seven pounds, they employ a mass of mule-shoe iron, weighing from forty to forty-five pounds; so that from thirty-four to thirty-eight pounds, are exhausted in the heatings and hammerings it is made to undergo, before it is forged into a barrel.



The avidity with which Spanish barrels were sought after, has, however, in a great degree subsided; and I am of opinion, that our stub-twisted barrels are fully equal to the Spanish, and that the preference given to the latter by some few whimsical persons proceeds more from a fancied than any real superiority.

The vanity of possessing nothing that is singularly curious, the false idea that whatever is expensive must necessarily be excellent, and occasionally the landable desire of improvements, have all, in their turns, been the causes of a variety of experiments being made in the manufacture of barrels; and stub-twisted are deservedly allowed to be superior to any other.

*Proof of Barrels.*—The methods of proving gun barrels are very numerous, and many of them by no means satisfactory. The tower proof is made with a bullet exactly fitting the calibre of the piece, and a charge of powder equal in weight to the bullet; and this proof is generally supposed to be a safe one.

There are some gunsmiths it seems who pride themselves on making their barrels undergo a second proof:—if a barrel, however, bears any assigned proof, it will no doubt sustain the same immediately after with greater safety than it did at first; since the metal, from being warmed with the first fire, expands more readily to the force of the second explosion.

The author of *La Chasse au Fusil* says, a stronger proof than ordinary might be made by ramming down at the top of the powder, six or eight inches of dry clay. I am of opinion, however, that this proof would burst any barrel; as the hardest rocks are torn in pieces

by means of dry clay, strongly rammed over powder, that is placed at the bottom of a cylindrical cavity made in them; and we certainly cannot expect that a force sufficient to rend in pieces immense blocks of granite, can be resisted by the comparatively trifling strength and thickness of a gun barrel.

I shall only mention one proof more, which, however, is decidedly preferable to every other; and indeed it were to be wished that no sportsman would purchase a fowling-piece without having first seen the barrel proved in the manner hereafter mentioned. This proof is made by means of water, which is compressed in the barrel in such a manner, as to find its way through any defects imperceptible to the eye. Any person in the least acquainted with this fluid will easily perceive that this method of proving, places a barrel beyond all doubt, as to any apprehension of its afterwards bursting; and it surely must be a great satisfaction to any sportsman, to have his mind perfectly at ease on this score.

*Causes of Bursting.*—The first step to prevent this, is, to purchase your fowling-piece from a gun-smith of respectability, giving at the same time a good price for it; (for, however respectable a gunsmith may be, you have no right to expect a good article for an inferior price). This is the most likely method of guarding against a barrel made of bad iron, which, to outward appearance, and superficial examination, might appear perfectly unquestionable. But as there are a variety of causes that may occasion a barrel made of good materials to burst, I shall therefore proceed to enumerate them.

The bursting of barrels generally arises from improper treatment. If by any means, in loading, the shot happens not to be rammed home (close on the powder) so that a space is left between the powder and shot, there will be great risk of its bursting on being discharged. Should the space be very small, and the shot lay so as to leave a small windage, (that is, admit a small quantity of air to pass), the barrel will most likely remain whole; but supposing, for instance, a bullet instead of shot, which exactly fits the bore, this accident will most certainly ensue. Mr. Robins, speaking on this subject, says, "a moderate charge of powder when it has expanded itself through the vacant space and reaches the ball, will, by the velocity each part has acquired, accumulate itself behind the ball, and thereby be condensed prodigiously; whence, if the barrel be not of an extraordinary strength in that part, it must infallibly burst. The truth of this I have experienced in a very good tower musket, forged of very tough iron; for, charging it with twelve penny-weights of powder, and placing the ball sixteen inches from the breech, on the firing of it, the part of the barrel just behind the bullet was swelled out to double its diameter, like a blown bladder, and two large pieces of two inches long were burst out of it". A much less space, however, than sixteen inches is sufficient to produce this effect; indeed a very trifling one, I am persuaded, would cause the barrel to burst; but the greater the space, the more certain the barrel is of bursting.

This accident may take place from the mouth of



the piece being filled with earth or snow, which sometimes happens in leaping a ditch, with the muzzle of the piece pointed forwards; and if, in such cases, the barrel does not burst, it is because those foreign bodies stop it up but very loosely. For the same reason the barrel will burst, if fired when the muzzle is thrust into water, but a very little depth below the surface; the resistance given to the passage of the inflamed powder, through the mouth of the piece being, in this case, much greater than that afforded by the sides of the barrel. Except in the circumstances mentioned, or in case of being overcharged, it is very rare that a barrel bursts. It may happen, however, independent of these, from a defect in the work; and that either the barrel has been imperfectly welded, or that a deep flaw has taken place in some parts of it: or, lastly, from want of care in boring or filing, it has been left of unequal thickness in the sides. The last defect is the most common, especially in low priced barrels. The elastic fluid, which is let loose by the inflammation of the powder, and which endeavours to expand itself equally in every direction, being repelled by the stronger parts, acts with additional force against the weaker ones, and frequently bursts its way through them; which would not have been the case had the sides been of an equal strength, and afforded an equal repercussion. The weakness of any part of the barrel, occasioned by the inequality of the calibre, will still more certainly be the cause of bursting, than that produced by the filing; because the inflamed fluid being suddenly expanded at the wider parts, must suffer a compression before it can

pass onward, and the whole force is then exerted against the weak place; for gunpowder acts in the radii of a circle, and exerts the same force on every part of the circumference of the circle. The conclusion, therefore, to be drawn from this is, that a thin and light barrel, which is perfectly upright, that is, of equal thickness in every part of its circumference, is much less liable to burst than one which is considerably thicker and heavier; but which, from being badly filed or bored, is left of unequal strength in its sides.

I shall conclude this subject by observing, that the greatest attention should be paid to keeping the barrel perfectly clean. If a barrel be fired only once, it should be well washed, unless it is going to be used again in the course of the same day; as it will be readily allowed that, after firing, the barrel will quickly become moist, and this moisture will speedily communicate a very corrosive rust, occasioned by the evaporation of the saltpetre used in making gunpowder. If a gun should be suffered to remain without cleaning for any length of time, its inside will suffer much, for the reason just assigned; and the using it afterwards will not be rendered only unpleasant, but also dangerous; and I have many strong reasons for believing that a neglect in this particular, has frequently been the cause of the barrel bursting.

*Of the Recoil.*—The most frequent cause of excessive recoil, is the bore of the piece being wider at one place than another; for although this inequality may be imperceptible to the naked eye, the repulse which

the expanding flame meets with, when passing from the wider to the narrower part, renders the recoil much greater than it would have been, had the bore been perfectly cylindrical.

• The impelling force of the powder is the first and most simple cause of fire-arms recoiling; for this force acts equally on the breech of the piece, and on the ball (or shot); so that if the piece and ball were of equal weight, and other circumstances the same, the piece would recoil with the same velocity, as that with which the ball issues out of the piece. For the same reason, whatever retards the exit of the charge, operates like an increase of lead; and, by confining the force of the explosion more to the barrel, produces a greater recoil; hence arises the increase of the recoil, in proportion as the barrel becomes foul by repeated firing. A piece will recoil, if, from the breech-plug being made too short, there remain some turns of the screw not filled up; these hollows, wherein a part of the powder is lodged, forming an obstacle that confines and retards the explosion. It is supposed that a barrel, mounted on a very straight stock, will recoil more, than when mounted on a stock that is considerably bent, as the curvature serves to break and deaden the force of the recoil. Also, a gun will recoil severely, whenever it is not applied firmly and properly to the shoulder.

— It will be necessary to notice, in this place, a notion, which formerly existed, but which I should suppose is now exploded, even by the vulgar and ignorant; I mean that of the recoil being increased, by



the touch-hole being placed at some distance from the breech-plug, so that the powder, instead of being fired at its base, is fired near the centre of the charge. The fallacy of this doctrine, however, has been so completely and frequently exposed, and so universally known, that I believe the reader will very readily excuse me, for not tiring his patience with a detailed account of experiments, made use of to ascertain this point. But I will take leave to mention one great inconvenience, which arises from the touch-hole being placed close to the breech-plug; which is, that it is much more liable to be stopped up, than when situated about a quarter of an inch above it.

*Of the Range of Barrels.*—It was formerly the general notion, that the longer the barrel, the farther the ball or shot would be thrown. So great, however, has been the change of opinion, of late, in this respect, that many gunsmiths now assert, that short barrels carry farther than long ones; and the reason they assign is, the greater friction of the ball or shot in passing through a long barrel, by which the velocity is retarded, and the force diminished. If the barrel be so long that the additional impulse, which the shot is continually receiving in its passage, becomes less than the friction between them and the sides of the calibre, then indeed the barrels, by being shortened, will shoot with more force; but as the length of the barrel, required to produce this effect, is vastly greater than can ever be employed for any purpose, the objection does not hold. And it seems clear, that a barrel may be made so long, that it will not throw

the shot with such great velocity, as one that is considerably shorter (supposing the calibre of both to be equal); and the reason of this decrease of velocity in very long pieces is owing to the increase of the counter-pressure of the external air in the cylinder; to which may be added, that the elastic fluid, generated by the explosion of the powder, is constantly escaping, while the shot is passing along the cylinder; which it not only does at the touch-hole, but also between the pellets of the shot—(hence the absurdity of touch-holes which prime themselves, and also the necessity of good wadding.)

However, after all, the precise length of barrels is far from being ascertained. Many experiments have been made for this purpose, by men of science and ability (and among the number, the Great Frederick of Prussia); and although some useful lights were thrown on the general cloud, yet the darkness, at this very hour, is by no means dissipated. But it is not here meant to be understood, that a long barrel, with a proportionate calibre, will not throw the shot farther; on the contrary, it is very obvious, that if a long barrel has a bore in proportion, and consequently takes a greater charge, that it must carry farther.

The elastic fluid, produced by the firing of gunpowder, is found, by experiment, to occupy, when cooled to the temperature of the atmosphere, a space 244 times greater than that taken up by the powder, from which it was obtained; but from the great heat generated during the explosion, this elastic fluid is rarefied to four times its former bulk. The expansive

force of this fluid, therefore, is, at the moment of inflammation, 1000 times greater than that of common air, or (which is the same), than the pressure of the atmosphere; or, supposing the powder to have occupied the space of one cubic inch, its expansive force, when fired, is equal to that which would be exerted by 1000 cubic inches of common air, compressed into the space of one inch. As the velocity with which the flame of gunpowder expands, when uncompressed, is much greater than that with which the ball or shot moves forward, the flame must continue to press upon the ball, and add to its velocity, until it quits the mouth of the piece. This pressure, however, ceases entirely, when it leaves the muzzle, in consequence of the flame being then allowed to expand itself laterally. Hence it would seem, that if two pieces of the same bore, but of different lengths, are charged with the same quantity of powder, the longer piece will, apparently, communicate the greater velocity and force to its ball or shot. Experience, however, has proved the fallacy of this theory; as short guns are frequently found, not only to throw their shot with greater force, but farther than long ones.

The compiler has now two guns in his possession, the barrel of one thirty-two inches, the other twenty-seven; both equally good to appearance. After repeated trials, I have been unable to ascertain which is the best. I have conversed with many sportsmen on this subject, as well as several well-informed gunsmiths, who all agree that a barrel of twenty-eight, or thirty inches, is the best calculated for the sportsman;



not only on account of its being lighter and more convenient than a longer one, but that it will kill equally as far.

The circumstance of a duck-gun killing at a greater distance than a fowling-piece, is not owing to its length, but to the greater width of its bore; by reason of which it takes a much larger charge, and the barrel is made stronger in proportion.

*Scattering of Shot.*—On this subject many experiments have been made, and much has been written, with no better success than with respect to the *range of barrels*. Maralles informs us, that a barrel, in order to throw its shot closely, ought to have the calibre narrower in the middle, than either at the breech or muzzle; while others again insist, that the barrel ought to contract gradually from the breech to the muzzle. The absurdity of both these methods is too obvious to need refutation; but, it must be allowed, that they are well calculated to burst the barrel, or at least to make the piece recoil insupportably.

Bell-muzzled-pieces formerly were much used, on account of the greater closeness with which they were supposed to throw the shot. But when it is considered that the grains of shot, which come in contact with the sides of the barrel, compose nearly half the charge, it will not be a matter of surprise, if enlarging the surface of calibre at the muzzle, and thereby increasing the number of grains that touch it, would tend to make the shot be scattered more widely.

Espinar says, that the fault of the scattering of the

shot arises from the quality of the iron composing the several portions of the barrel. Thus, he observes, it may happen, that the reinforced part is formed of iron, which is harder and closer in the grain than that forming the fore-part of the barrel; in consequence of which, and also from the fore-part being much thinner, the latter is the more shaken by the powder, and by that means produces a dispersion of the shot. He, therefore, pretends, that widening the muzzle, that is, making it bell-muzzled, by facilitating the explosion, diminishes the force of the powder upon this part, and causes the shot to be thrown more closely together.

These contrivances, however, appear by no means to answer the desired purpose; most of the modern gunsmiths are sensible of this, and therefore seldom practise them, unless to indulge the whim of the customers. For my own part, I am confident, that those barrels, whose calibre is perfectly smooth, and cylindrical throughout, will be found to throw the shot the best. Barrels of this kind have long supported their credit among sportsmen; whilst the pretended improvements have all experienced but a very temporary reputation, and are now intirely neglected.

There remains yet one observation to be made on this subject, which is, that of overcharging. That this is frequently the cause of the shot scattering too much, I have not the smallest doubt. Every barrel, according to its calibre and weight, has a certain quantity of lead, and a suitable one of powder, which will be attended with greater certainty and effect than any

other; and these can be ascertained by repeated trials alone. If we increase the quantity of shot above this, we lessen the force of the discharge, and at the same time increase the recoil; and if we increase the charge of powder, that of the shot remaining the same, the recoil will be greater, and the shot much more dispersed than before. In every species of fire arms, large charges of powder are found to disperse the shot very much, whilst with smaller charges than are generally used, it is thrown more steadily and closely. If the object, therefore, which we are about to fire at, be at too great a distance for the shot to take effect, and it happens that we cannot approach nearer to it, we ought not to increase the quantity of powder with a view to the shot being thereby thrown farther, as, by so doing, the increase of the range will be very trifling, whilst the dispersion of the shot will be greatly augmented. The only expedient in this case is, to employ shot of a larger size; the quantity of it and of the powder, being kept the same as has been already found best suited to the piece.

*The Patent Breech.*— That this is an improvement must be allowed by every one acquainted with the nature of it; but I am confident there are many who suppose it of much greater importance and utility than on close examination it will prove to be. Some, for instance, imagine it throws the shot much further, which is not the case. The advantages to be derived from the patent breech are, that it takes less powder, and fires quicker; the explosion is instantaneous, and all the powder is kindled: whereas it will be found, on



firing with a common breech, that some of the powder will come out without having exploded; and to prove the truth of this assertion, it will be necessary only to put a sheet or two of white paper immediately under the muzzle of the piece; and, after firing, grains of powder will be found thereon. But I am inclined to believe that the patent breech gets foul or dirty sooner than the common one: this however, is but a trifle, when compared to the advantages of quicker firing, and a great saving in powder.

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## OF THE STOCK, LOCK, &c.

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**ON** that essential part of the fowling-piece, the stock, many different opinions will be found to exist:—some preferring it short, others long; many are much attached to a considerable curvature, while others will choose it almost straight: and good shots will perhaps be equally found, though they make use of stocks of different dimensions and forms, and this arises intirely from practising the different methods. As to the curvature no particular degree can be assigned as a standard; different persons requiring different degrees, according to the length of their neck, and to the manner in which they hold their head while taking aim. This therefore, as well as the length of the butt (which depends in some measure upon the circum-

stance just mentioned, but in a greater degree upon the length of the arms) can be determined with great accuracy by the gunsmith, from observing the manner in which the shooter presents his piece and takes aim. Generally speaking, however, thus much may be observed, that for a long-armed man, the stock should be longer than for one who has short arms; also a tolerably straight stock is proper for a person who has high shoulders, or a short neck; for if it be much bent, it would be very difficult for him, especially in the quick motion required in shooting at a flying or running object, to place the but-end of the gun stock firmly to the shoulder; the upper part alone would in general be fixed, which would not only raise the muzzle, and consequently shoot high, but make the recoil more severely felt, than if the whole end of the stock were firmly placed on the shoulder. Besides, supposing the shooter to bring the butt home to his shoulder, he would scarcely be able to level his piece at the object. On the contrary, a man with low shoulders and a long neck, requires a stock much bent; for if it is straight, he will in the act of lowering his head to that part of the stock at which his cheek should rest in taking aim, feel a constraint, which he never experiences when, by the effect of the proper degree of curvature, the stock lends him some assistance, and, as it were, meets him half way. Independent, however, of these principles, the application of which is subject to a variety of modifications, I would advise the sportsman, in choosing a fowling-piece, to prefer a stock rather more bent than usual; as a straight one, in coming up

to the aim is subject to the inconvenience of shooting too high: a long stock too, is preferable to a short one, for the following reasons, namely, that it sits more firmly to the shoulder; and in windy weather the flash of the pan cannot blow so much in the shooter's face.

With regard to locks I have nothing material to offer; they have already been brought to such a degree of elegance and perfection, that we have scarcely any thing farther to hope for or require. The real improvements are not confined to any particular maker; and though the *minutiae* peculiar to each may determine the shooter in his preference, no person need fear much disappointment in the essential qualities of a lock, supposing he goes to the price of a good one. It is of much more consequence to the excellence of a lock, that the springs be proportioned to each other, than that they should all be made very strong. If the main-spring be very strong, and the hammer-spring weak, the cock will be liable to be broken for want of sufficient resistance to its stroke; on the other hand, if the hammer spring be stiff, and the main spring weak, the cock has not sufficient force to drive back the hammer: and in both cases, the collision between the flint and the steel is too slight to produce the necessary fire. The face of the hammer also may be too hard or too soft: the former is known by the flint making scarcely any impression upon it, and the sparks being few and very small; the latter, by the flint cutting into the hammer at every stroke, whilst the sparks also are few in number, and of a dull-red colour. When the strength of the springs and the temper of the hammer,



are in their due degree, the sparks will be numerous, brilliant, and accompanied with a whizzing noise.

In order to explain these differences, it will be necessary to observe, that the sparks produced by the collision of flint and steel, are particles of the metal driven off in a strongly-heated state; and which, falling among the powder, kindle it instantly. By snapping a gun or pistol over a sheet of white paper, we may collect these sparks; and by submitting them to a microscope, demonstrate the truth of this assertion. If the sparks are brilliant, and accompanied with a whizzing noise, we shall find the particles collected on the paper, to be little globules of steel; which were not only melted, but have actually undergone a considerable degree of vitrification from the intensity of the heat excited by the collision, their surface exactly resembling the slag thrown out from an iron-foundry. When the face of the hammer is too hard, the particles which the flint strikes off are so small, that they are cooled before they fall into the pan; and when the hammer is too soft, the particles driven off are so large, as not to be sufficiently heated to kindle the powder.

For my own part I prefer a lock, the springs of which are rather strong than otherwise, on account of its being less liable to *miss fire*. It is true, it will wear away the flints much faster; but the expense of these is too trifling to merit consideration; and there are now to be purchased, at some of the gunsmiths, hard white stones, which are admirably adapted for strong locks. But, after all, I am inclined to believe the cock is more liable to break with strong springs, than

with middling ones, supposing they are in due proportion.

As to gold-pans, they are more for show than utility. A steel pan will be found, with common care in cleaning it, to last as long, and to answer every purpose as well, as when lined with gold. The gold touch-hole, however, is to be preferred. Platina has lately been tried for this purpose, and found to answer equally as well as gold; at the same time that it is much cheaper. I have two fowling-pieces with platina touch-holes, which I have used the two last seasons, and the platina appears in every respect equal to gold.

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## GUNPOWDER.

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I AM well aware that sportsmen, in general, do not pay that attention to this article, which the nature and utility of it so obviously demand. It is an article which requires the greatest care and circumspection; and I have no doubt but the gunsmith is frequently blamed, for what has been caused by the sportsman's neglect.

Gunpowder is composed of very light charcoal, sulphur, and well-refined saltpetre. The powder used by sportsmen in shooting game, is generally composed

of six parts of saltpetre, one of charcoal, and one of sulphur; but these proportions, as well as the introduction of several ingredients, and the sizes of the grains, are undoubtedly varied by the different manufacturers in the composition of the powders of the same denomination, and are always kept profoundly secret.

Powder, however well dried and fabricated it may have been, loses its strength, when allowed to become damp. The truth of this observation may be demonstrated by the following experiment:—Let a quantity of well-dried powder be nicely weighed, and put into a close room, where the air is temperate, and seemingly dry, and be left for three or four hours; on weighing it again, its weight will be increased. This same powder, exposed to an air loaded with vapour, acquires much additional weight in a short time. Now the increase of the weight being proportioned to the quantity of vapour contained in the atmosphere, and to the length of time that the powder is exposed to it, it follows, that powder easily attracts moisture. Wherefore, if a degree of heat, sufficient only to fire dry powder, be applied to powder that is damp, the moisture will oppose the action of the fire; and the grains either will not take fire at all, or their inflammation will be slower. Thus, as the fire will spread more slowly, fewer grains will burn at a time; and the penetration of the fire from the surface to the centre of each grain, and, consequently, their consumption, will require more time. Whence it may be concluded, that all degrees of moisture diminish the force of pow-



der. Saltpetre, not sufficiently refined, attracts moisture very readily; and as the substances that render it impure lessen the quantity of fluid, and prevent its detonation, it should be refined as much as possible, before it is used in the fabrication of gunpowder.

The force of powder is owing to an elastic fluid generated at the explosion, the suddenness of which depends upon the proportion of the ingredients, the contact between the nitrous and combustibile particles, and the size of the grains, &c. Hence it may be concluded, that when several powders, equally well dried, and fired under the same state of the atmosphere, are compared together, that which produces the greatest quantity of elastic fluid, in a given space of time, is the strongest.

There are two general methods of examining gunpowder: one with regard to the purity of its composition, the other as to its strength. Its purity may be known, by laying two or three little heaps near each other upon white paper, and firing one of them. If this takes fire readily, and the smoke rises upright, without leaving any dross or feculent matter behind, and without burning the paper, or firing the other heaps, it is esteemed a sign that the sulphur and nitre were well purified, that the coal was good, and that the three ingredients were thoroughly incorporated together; but if the other heaps also take fire at the same time, it is presumed that either common salt was mixed with the nitre, or that the coal was not well ground, or the whole mass not well beat and mixed

together; and if either the nitre or sulphur be not well purified, the paper will be black or spotted.

For proving the strength of powder, a number of machines have been invented, all of which seem liable to objection; and frequently upon trial with the same powder, are found to give results so different, that no dependence can be placed in them; to so many modifications are the principal properties of powder subject, even in experiments conducted with the utmost care. These variations have been attributed by many to the different density of the atmosphere, at the time of the different experiments; but the opinions upon this matter are so improbable in themselves, and so contradictory to each other, that they claim neither attention nor belief. Thus some will have it, that gunpowder produces the greatest effect in the morning and evening, when the air is cool and dense; whilst others assert that its force is greatest in sunshine, and during the heat of the day. Mr. Robins concludes, from the result of several hundred trials made by him at all times of the day, and in every season of the year, that the density of the atmosphere has no effect in this matter, and that we ought to attribute the variations, observed at these times, to some other cause than the state of the air: probably they are owing to the imperfection of the instrument, or to the manner in which the trial was conducted. In this state of uncertainty then, upon the theory of the effects of gunpowder, we remain at this day.

If experiments, however, are made with the prover, great care must be taken not to press the powder in

the smallest degree into the tube, but to pour it gently in; and, particularly in trying the strength of different powders, (which is the best use to which the instrument, imperfect as it is, can be applied,) attention must be paid that one powder is not pressed closer than another at each experiment, nor the successive experiments made until the prover is perfectly cool, otherwise no comparative certainty can be gained. By far the most certain method, however, of determining the quality of powder is, by drying some of it very well, and then trying how many sheets of paper it will drive the shot through at the distance of ten or twelve yards. In this trial care must be taken to employ shot of the same size in each experiment, the quantity both of the shot and the powder being regulated by exact weight; otherwise we cannot even in this experiment, arrive to any certainty in comparing the strength of different powders, or of the same powder at different times.

From what has been said in the preceding part of this article, it will easily be concluded that powder should be kept very dry, and that every degree of moisture injures it. Good powder, however, does not readily imbibe moisture; and, perhaps, there is no greater proof of the bad quality of this composition than its growing damp quickly when exposed to the air: this aptness to become moist arises from the saltpetre not having been properly freed from the common salt it contains in a crude state, and which, in consequence, has a strong attraction for watery particles.

Gunpowder may acquire a small degree of dampness, and be freed from it again by drying without much



injury to its quality; but if the moisture is considerable, the saltpetre is dissolved, and the intimate mixture of the ingredients intirely destroyed. Drying powder with too great heat also injures it; for there is a degree, which, although not sufficient to fire the powder, will yet dissipate the sulphur, and impair the composition by destroying the texture of the grains. The heat of the sun is perhaps the greatest it can with safety be exposed to, and, if properly managed, is quite sufficient for the purpose; when this cannot be had, the heat of the fire, regulated to the same degree, may be employed; and, for this end, a heated pewter-plate is as good as any thing; because pewter retains so moderate a heat that there can be little danger of spoiling the powder by producing the consequences above mentioned. I need hardly mention that too much care cannot be taken in drying gunpowder.

It may also be observed that damp powder produces a remarkable foulness in the gun after firing, much beyond what arises from an equal quantity of dry powder; and this appears to arise from a diminution of the activity of the fire in the explosion. Unless the sportsman is very particular indeed in the mode of keeping his powder, I would recommend him to air it and the flask before taking the field.—Flasks made of copper or tin are far superior for keeping powder in, to those made of leather, on account of the latter being much more liable to imbibe moisture.

Much has been said of the goodness of the powder manufactured by Messrs. Pigon and Andrews of Dartford; and it has been deservedly held in much esteem;

in fact this powder was for a long time the best that was manufactured in this kingdom, or perhaps in the world. W. G. Harvey has, however, found means to equal it at least. His powder now fires as quick, burns as clean, and is fully as strong; and consequently as much entitled to the notice of the sportsman as that of Pigeon and Andrews.

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## OF SHOT.

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**THIS** essential article of the sportsman is perhaps already brought to its greatest possible perfection. The patent shot is now so very generally used, that I shall consider common shot as out of the question, and confine my remarks solely to the former.

It is extremely important, for the success of the chase, that the sportsman should proportion the size of his shot, as well to the particular species of game he means to pursue, as to the season of killing it; but, on this subject, I make no doubt a variety of opinions exists among sportsmen: however, I shall venture to recommend that which I have found to answer the best.

From the commencement of the shooting season to the end of September, No. 7 should be used (though many persons use No. 6); for at this time, birds spring near at hand, and their feathers are less capable of re-

sisting the shot than at a more advanced period of the year. Hares also at this season sit closer, and are more thinly covered with fur. About the beginning of October, at which time partridges are stronger in the wing, No. 5 will perhaps be found to answer best. This size seems to preserve a proper medium between shot too large and that which is too small, and will kill a hare at the distance of 40 yards, and a partridge at 60 or more. In short it is excellent for all seasons, and many sportsmen use no other all the season round. It is true that distant objects are frequently missed for want of larger shot; but then these bear no proportion to the number which are missed by using shot of too large a size, especially with the feathered game; which enables it to escape in the vacant spaces of the circle or disk described by the shot.

For snipe shooting mustard seed is generally used, and is certainly the best adapted for this diversion. It is the smallest of all.

The following table will exhibit the method by which the different sizes of shot are distinguished, and will also shew the gradations.

B. B.	1 ounce contains	58 pellets
B.	Do. - - - - -	65
No. 1	Do. - - - - -	82
2	Do. - - - - -	112
3	Do. - - - - -	135
4	Do. - - - - -	177
5	Do. - - - - -	218



## THE CHARGE.

127

No. 6	1 ounce contains	261 pellets
7	Do. - - - - -	289
8	Do. - - - - -	660
9	Do. - - - - -	970.

This scale differs considerably from Thornhill's, and, consequently, from the one that he copied it (for he has merely copied it).—I can only say that I took the trouble to count the pellets, and set them down accordingly. The numbers are continued, I believe, several degrees farther; though I was not able to procure, in the place where I reside, lower than No. 9. The largest of all shot is what is called *swan-drops*.

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## THE PROPORTIONS OF POWDER AND SHOT IN THE CHARGE.

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THAT this is an object of the first importance is very obvious; since every fowling-piece has a particular load with which it will shoot with greater certainty and effect; but it must be allowed that it is only by experiment that this can be ascertained with precision. Before I proceed farther, I will beg leave to mention an excellent principle in the practice of the artillery on this subject. It is asserted, that, by using small charges at first and increasing the quantity of powder by degrees, the ranges will increase to a certain point; after which, if the charge be augmented, they will progressively

diminish; though the recoil will still continue in the ratio of the increase of the charge. This is a consequence that may be deduced from a variety of experiments, and is perfectly agreeable to the principles of mechanics; since the recoil and the range ought to be in the reciprocal ratio of the gun and the shot, making allowance for the resistance which these bodies meet with.

I am perfectly aware that many rules have been laid down for loading of fowling-pieces, and am at the same time convinced of their futility; since guns of the same calibre, and apparently alike in every respect, will be found to vary in this point. The surest and best method to ascertain the precise loading is to fire at sheets of paper at the distance of about 40 yards; and by this means the point may be ascertained with tolerable precision. The paper should be many sheets in thickness, as by this means the sportsman will see very clearly with what force the shot is driven, by the sheets which are perforated:—That charge which throws the shot in the roundest and best manner, and at the same time drives with the greatest force, will of course be the proper charge; and it is very adviseable that the sportsman should get the charger of his powder flask, as also of his shot-bag, so adjusted as to contain exactly the requisite charge.

Nothing can be more absurd than the vulgar notion of overloading, particularly with shot; as it destroys the very purpose it was meant to effect. If more than a proper quantity of powder is used, part of it will be discharged unburnt; and to overload with hot will

cause the pellets to strike against each other, and fall by the way, and those which reach the mark will have but little force, and consequently produce little effect: in either case, however, the recoil will be greatly increased, and the piece in danger of bursting.

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## OF THE WADDING.

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**T**H**ERE** are many sportsmen who consider the wadding as an object of the greatest importance; whilst others are of opinion that it is of little consequence. Now, although it be granted that the material which covers the shot, and which is used only for the purpose of keeping it down, is of little importance, yet the material which covers the powder is undoubtedly a matter of much consideration: it should be quite close in the barrel, and that without being rammed too hard: the wadding should therefore be of a soft and tractable material, but at the same time of sufficient consistence to carry the shot in a body to a certain distance from the muzzle of the piece; for if the wadding is rammed too close, or is of a hard and rigid substance, such as stiff brown paper, the piece will recoil, and the shot will spread more wide: if, on the contrary, the wadding is not sufficiently close, and is composed of a slight and too pliant material, such as wool or cotton,



it will not be of consistence enough to carry the shot, and the discharge will lose its proper force. Besides, a certain portion of the shot, which is more immediately in contact with the wadding, will be melted by the explosion of the powder.

An acquaintance of the compiler, and an experienced sportsman, after making use of every kind of wadding imaginable, is decidedly in favour of soft brown paper. Some make use of tow for this purpose; others prefer cork; and I have been told that a certain white moss, which is found adhering to apple-trees, makes excellent wadding; a cloth too, called *shepherds' fearnought* is much spoken of. I will not pretend to say which of these is the *best*; but I will venture to point out the *worst* of them; which are, the *tow* and the *moss*; it is very obvious that these, from their nature, are very ill-adapted for wadding. That cork is good for this purpose, I have no hesitation in asserting; and the same may be said of *shepherds' fearnought*. And I shall now close this subject with mentioning the wadding which I regard as the best, and which I constantly make use of:—Over the powder, I place a wadding of *hat*, taking care to place it firm, but not rammed too hard; the shot I cover with pieces of punched *card*, observing the same precautions as before; cork no doubt would answer the latter purpose as well as card, (though not better,) but is not so easily punched; and as both hat and card wadding are apt to turn in going down, the ram-rod should be made at the bottom end almost to fit the calibre of the piece, by which they will be prevented from turning. Hat wad-

ding has this advantage, that it in some measure cleans the barrel every time it goes down; and the same may be said perhaps of shepherds' fearnought; but the latter does not possess the consistence of the former, which, in my opinion, renders it inferior. In fact, if the sportsman choose, he may use hat over the shot as well as powder, which is a thing frequently done by the compiler. Care should be taken that the wadding (hat) fits the calibre; and for this purpose it must be cut with a punch.

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## OF SHOOTING:

*With Remarks and Observations necessary thereto;  
and also Instructions for juvenile Sportsmen to  
attain the Art of Shooting flying, &c.*

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SHOOTING is an amusement of that nature, which affords both pleasure and exercise: a pleasure too of the most innocent kind, whilst the exercise which attends it administers, in a superior degree, to the health and vigour of the body, by expelling those gross humours which lurk within the human frame, and that frequently baffle the skill of the physician. A recreation attended with such important advantages must surely be advisable; I shall, therefore, without farther exordium, proceed to the point in question.

As *scent* is the leading, and in fact the principal thing on which shooting depends, it will be necessary, in the first place, to say a few words on the nature of it:—Scent is an effluvium continually arising from the corpuscles that issue out of bodies; and, being impregnated with the peculiar state and quality of the blood and juices of that particular body from which they flow, occasions the vast variety of smells or scents cognizable by the olfactory nerves, or organs of smelling.



Hence, the reason why a dog will trace the footsteps of his master for miles, follow him into any house, church, or other building, and distinguish him from any other person, though surrounded by a multitude. And when the faithful animal has thus diligently sought out and recognised his master, he is seldom willing even to trust the evidence of his own eyes, until, with erected crest, he has taken a few cordial sniffs, to convince himself he is right. Hence we discover how a setter or pointer gains information of his approach to partridges, &c.; and hence, also, we perceive how birds and beasts of prey are directed to their food at such vast distances; for these corpuscles issuing from putrid bodies, and floating in the air, are carried by the wind to different quarters; where, striking the olfactory nerves of whatever animals they meet with in their way, they immediately conduct them to the spot. It matters not how much of the effluvia is evaporated, so long as enough remains to irritate the olfactory organ; for, whether it be bird or beast, they try the scent in all directions, till they discover that which is stronger and stronger in proportion as they proceed; and this nature has taught them to know is the direct and certain road to the object of pursuit. This observation is confirmed by the increased eagerness to be perceived in pointers and setters, in proportion as the scent is recent, and as they draw nearer to the game.

It is a fact well known, among sportsmen at least, that a dog cannot find game so well in a ploughed field, as in one where there is grass, stubble, &c. which arises from the superior attraction, and also obstruction

which the latter affords to the floating corpuscles before described ; the condition of the ground too, and the temperature of the air are objects of importance ; both of which should be moist, without being too wet.— Whenever the ground is hard, and the air cold and dry, the abilities of the dog will be exerted in vain, for scarcely any scent will be found ; nor does it *lie* well in general when the wind is in the north or east. The soft winds from the west or south (unattended with rain) are the best suited to the sportsman.

From these observations the reader will easily observe the utility of the barometer, and the necessity of attending to its fluctuations, which will enable him to prevent numberless mortifications. If in the morning you find the air temperate, and the quicksilver moderately high or gentle convex, it is a fair invitation to prepare for this diversion. There are portable barometers, that lock up in a box, and do not suffer in the smallest degree from carriage, frequently used by sportsmen, and which, indeed, seem in some measure a necessary appendage, particularly on a grouse shooting excursion.

I now come to that part which the juvenile shooter, I make no doubt, will eagerly seek, on first taking the volume into his hand. I mean the art of shooting flying. In the first place, I wish to have it impressed on his mind, that however plain and easy the rules may be laid down, some practice at least will be found indispensably necessary, in order to enable him to follow those rules with precision. In fact, this is a science which cannot be taught by mere description ; but, at

the same time, I am confident, that rules may be laid down, and instructions given, by the judicious practice of which a person may in a short time acquire the art of shooting flying with tolerable certainty.

As a means of attaining this art, young sportsmen are advised by many to shoot at swallows ; but this method, I am persuaded, is of little or no use ; for the flight of these birds is so unlike that of those which are the object of sport, that this practice seems to answer no other purpose than that of destroying those useful birds, (which feed chiefly on insects,) without advancing a single degree in the desired object. The flight of swallows is very swift, and very irregular, and in fact they can only be shot, with any certainty at least, when they become nearly stationary, as it were, for a short time, which will be found frequently to be the case, by observing them in the air, or under other circumstances equally favourable. Shooting at sparrows will be found better than swallow shooting ; or indeed any other birds, whose flight in any degree approaches that of partridges, and I have no doubt but an indifferent marksman may derive considerable benefit from this practice. But let it be impressed on the mind of the reader, that actual practice of shooting game is absolutely and indispensably necessary, in order to get the better of that trepidation and alarm which all young gunners experience on the rising of a covey, or a single bird ; for while these are retained, even in the slightest degree, it will be impossible to shoot with any certainty. When first I commenced shooter, I well remember the palpitation of my heart,



even on seeing the dog make a steady point; conscious of game being before him, and expecting it to spring every moment, I have trembled to that degree as to render taking any sort of steady aim absolutely impossible. When at length the birds have sprung, I have in the utmost agitation instantly fired, before they had flown perhaps two yards; and, I need hardly inform the reader, had always the mortification of seeing them *all* fly away unhurt. That this is more less the case with most juvenile sportsmen, I have no hesitation in supposing; and hence may be seen the necessity of practice, in order to become familiar with that whirring noise, which takes place on game rising. In shooting, the sportsman should be as cool and deliberate as a *Quaker*, and of all things avoid shooting too soon. I am aware that the anxiety felt by persons on first commencing shooters, induces them to fire too quick, lest the game should be got out of their reach: this hurry, however, will be sure to prevent that which they are so anxious to attain; and I can confidently inform my reader, that he may rest assured of having plenty of time after the birds rise, deliberately to select his object, cock his gun, and afterwards take aim.

Exclusive of the above causes, there are others which may occasion the object to be missed. Some persons, at the critical moment of pulling the trigger, shut *both* their eyes! Strange as this may appear, it is a fact; and it is hardly necessary to observe, that till such time as a little practice has removed this glaring absurdity, it will be in vain for a person to expect to kill a single bird. Others again have a method of jerking their

heads at the instant of pulling, which is consequently another cause of missing: practice will certainly remedy this defect. But both these ridiculous habits, one would suppose, might be remedied by only a common share of reflection and self-command. That there have been many instances of both kinds, no one will attempt to deny; and it is equally certain, that a person who practises either, if he kill a bird, must be entirely indebted to chance.

I will now suppose the sportsman in the field, properly equipped, and in possession of a gun, with the range and method of carrying of which he is perfectly acquainted. Supposing a covey to rise and fly in a straight line from the shooter, he should select *one* particularly, and cocking his piece, bring it firmly to his shoulder, and deliberately take aim: if he knows the trim of his piece, the bird will be sure to fall. The method to avoid missing a cross shot, whether it be flying or running, is not only to take aim before the object, but likewise not involuntarily to stop the motion of the arms at the moment of pulling the trigger: for the instant the hand stops, in order to fire, although the space of time is almost imperceptible, the object, if a bird, gets beyond the line of aim, and the shot will fly behind it; and if a hare is shot at in this manner, while running, especially if at a considerable distance, the animal will only be slightly struck in the buttocks, and will most probably escape. It becomes therefore extremely essential to accustom the arms in taking aim, to correspond, if I may be allowed the expression, with the motion of the object, without suspending this motion, even in the

smallest degree, which is a very essential requisite towards acquiring the art of shooting well; the contrary habit, which it is very difficult to correct, when once contracted, prevents that person from attaining perfection in this art, however eminently he may be qualified in other respects. Nor is it less essential in a cross-shot, to aim before the object, in proportion to its distance and speed, at the time of firing. If a partridge, for instance, flies across at the distance of thirty or thirty-five yards, it will be sufficient to take aim about two inches before it. But, supposing the distance to be fifty or sixty yards, it will then become necessary to aim at least half a foot before the head. The same practice should be observed in shooting at a hare, when running in a cross direction, making due allowance for the distance, and also for the speed, which is not always the same. It is also proper, in shooting at an object very distant, to aim a little above it, because shot as well as ball, have but a certain range, point blank, beyond which each begins to describe the curve of a parabola.

When a hare runs in a straight line from the shooter, he should take aim between the ears, otherwise he will run the hazard of missing; or perhaps he may slightly wound the animal, and it will escape. A true sportsman is not content with only breaking the wing of a partridge, or the thigh of a hare, when he shoots at a fair distance; for in such case, the hare or the partridge ought to be shot in such a manner, that it should remain in the place where it is shot, and not afterwards require the assistance of dogs to catch it.—



But if he shoots at a great distance, it is no reproach that the partridge is only winged, or the hare wounded, so that it cannot escape.

The range of the fowling-piece, and the closeness with which it carries the shot being ascertained, a little practice will enable the sportsman to judge of his proper distance with tolerable precision. A hare ought infallibly to be killed at the distance of from twenty-five to thirty-five yards; and a partridge, at from thirty to forty-five yards, with shot No. 6, supposing, in both cases, the aim to have been properly taken. It is a certain fact, that hares and partridges are sometimes killed beyond these distances; but, in general, the hares are only slightly wounded, and carry away the shot; and the partridges present so small a surface, that they frequently escape untouched in the vacant spaces of the circle which the shot describes. There have, perhaps, been instances of a hare having been killed with common-sized shot, at the distance of seventy or eighty yards, or a partridge still farther; yet these shots are so extraordinary, and so very seldom occur, that the whole life of a sportsman will probably not furnish more than one or two instances; and whenever this has happened, it will be found to have taken place by a single pellet, which, by chance, has struck the wing of the partridge, or head of the hare, or other vital part of either.

A bird that rises, and flies in a straight line from the sportsman, is justly regarded as the easiest to be killed. When one flies horizontally to the right, it has been supposed a more difficult shot than one flying thus to the

left; that is, if a single-barrel is used, for I cannot see any difference, if a double-barrel is made use of.— If game rises and flies in your face, as it were, or over your head, it will be found very difficult to kill; and the best method, in this case, will be to suffer the bird to fly past you before you attempt to take aim.

It will be proper to observe in this place, that the wind is a matter of considerable importance. If it should be brisk, it will be apt, in some measure, to bend the course of the shot: should the bird therefore fly against the wind in a straight direction, it will be necessary to aim a trifle above the object, as the force of the wind will be liable to make the shot decline. Supposing it a cross-shot against the wind, it will be advisable to level considerably before the object, (which, however, must be regulated by the distance) as the course of the shot will be more bent by the wind, than the motion of the bird will be retarded. But if the wind blows with the bird, the observance of the general rule will be found to answer, as the wind helps the bird forward, as much as it diverts the course of the shot. These rules will equally apply to shooting of hares.

From a deliberate and careful practice of the foregoing rules, there is little doubt of a young sportsman very soon acquiring the art of shooting flying; and, in fact, the only difficulty is that of overcoming that anxiety, trepidation, and impatience, at the critical moment when all should be as calm and unruffled as a stoic. There is no pursuit or amusement where a

steady hand, a cool head, and philosophic patience is more required than that of shooting.

It may happen (and frequently does) that a considerable time elapses before a juvenile gunner is enabled to overcome the difficulties above-mentioned. However, let him not despair, even though several seasons should pass before he arrives at any degree of perfection in this art; for he may depend on it, that practice and a careful endeavour to observe the foregoing rules will eventually prevail, and that in time he must become a good shot.

I shall now proceed to those remarks which obviously present themselves: they may not perhaps be quite so interesting to the juvenile shooter as the preceding, yet they are equally necessary.

There are many sportsmen, who, on levelling their fowling-piece, place their left hand\* close to the trigger-guard, which is undoubtedly a bad practice, as in this situation the piece can neither be held so steady, nor the aim consequently so well taken, as when that hand is placed near to that part of the stock where the ramrod enters; at the same time the piece should be strongly grasped, and not suffered merely to rest between the thumb and fore-finger. The reason appears very obvious why the latter method is preferable to the former. The left hand is intended as a rest or support to the piece in the act of levelling; and when it is placed close to the trigger-guard, the fowling-piece must consequently be rendered too heavy at the muzzle

\* I am supposing a person to shoot from the right shoulder.



end, and that necessary equilibrium in a great measure destroyed.

Different opinions will be found to exist as to the best method of loading, &c. Some say that the piece should be first loaded, and then primed, while others maintain that it is best to prime first; also there will be found those who give directions for the pan and touch-hole to be brushed with a feather every time the piece is fired. I shall now inform my reader of that method which experience has proved to be superior to all others, and which I invariably practice.

Immediately on firing, it will be necessary to re-load, in order to prevent that moisture which will ensue on the piece becoming cold, not only in the pan, but also the inside of the barrel. Now, supposing that a bird is *winged*\*, the shooter should, notwithstanding, invariably load before he attempts to secure it, as well to hinder the moisture above-mentioned, as to prevent your dog imbibing bad habits; for if you suffer him to run after a winged bird immediately on firing, he will be very apt to break away on the shot, which is one of the worst of practices. Therefore, as soon as the sportsman has fired, let him prime, and while he is preparing the charge of powder, he should place the palm of his hand on the muzzle of the piece, as by this means he will completely extinguish any particle of fuze, which, by any means, might have been left in the barrel, and prevent those accidents which are so liable on pouring the powder in the barrel: the priming and the hand on the muzzle prevent air getting to the latent

\* Sporting term for a broken wing.

spark, and it becomes instantly extinct; the time which it takes to prepare the charge of powder with a spring-top flask must be allowed to be very short, yet it will be quite sufficient to effect this necessary purpose. It will be advisable, in pouring the powder into the barrel to hold the charger as central as possible over the bore, in order that the grains, in falling, may not adhere to the sides of the barrel; however, if hat wadding is used, it is of little consequence, as the hat will brush down the adhering grains in its descent. Neither the powder or shot should be rammed too hard; but for a farther illustration of this subject, see the head, **PROPORTIONS OF POWDER AND SHOT IN THE CHARGE.**

When the sportsman has fired about fourteen times, he should wipe his gun-barrel with tow: there are rods made for this purpose, that screw together in several parts, which renders them portable for the pocket, and consequently very convenient. On first going out in the morning, the sportsman should make it a rule to air his gun-barrel, by firing a little powder, and also to change his flint every seven or eight times firing, as by this means he will be less liable to the mortification of his piece missing fire.

There remains still another material point, which it will be necessary to impress on the mind of the sportsman. I mean with respect to charging the fowling-piece in a safe position; this will so obviously present itself, that any directions for the purpose are unnecessary, and would occupy the time of the reader in a manner almost worse than idly spent. Let me also

conjure the sportsman on no account to carry his gun cocked; as he may rely on it that cocking is no way necessary till the game rises; and should there be occasion to uncock the fowling piece, in letting the cock down, it should be suffered to pass beyond the half-cock, and then brought back, as by this means, it may be heard, as well as felt, to *tell* into the proper nick of the tumbler, and thus rendered perfectly secure: great care should be taken, at the same time, that the muzzle of the piece is as erect as possible, which will prevent mischief, supposing by accident the cock should slip and thus discharge the piece.

If the sportsman should make use of different guns he should contrive to have the locks made, so that the pull of each trigger will be similar; or, in other words, require, as near as possible, the same degree of force to lett off the cock; for nothing can be more disagreeable than using different pieces, the triggers of some of which requiring considerable force, while others would be drawn perhaps with a hair.

As to the best method of carrying the fowling-piece, various opinions will be found, no doubt, to exist. For my own part, I think it a matter of little consequence, so long as the muzzle is pointed immediately upwards. I believe the general way is to carry it on the arm with the muzzle erect, which appears to me preferable to any other.

It has been before remarked that a brace of good dogs are sufficient at once; but they should be used to hunt together, and be perfectly acquainted with each other; otherwise they will be jealous, and commit



many mistakes. If, therefore, two gentlemen are desirous of shooting in company, each having a brace of dogs, it will be adviseable for one of them to hunt his dogs in the forenoon and the other in the afternoon. It is one of the worst of practices for strange dogs to hunt in company, since they will violently contend against each other, and most likely spoil the day's diversion. Juvenile sportsmen too, when shooting in company, are frequently very imprudently anxious to obtain the first shot. When this is the case, disappointment is almost the certain consequence; but if a bird falls, it is perhaps claimed by both, and is thus sometimes productive of unpleasant words. A gentleman should wait patiently till a bird rises on his own side, or till after his friend has fired. Should only one bird arise, the shot belongs to that person on whose side the bird was sprung.

The proper time, and the most likely places, of finding the different kinds of game, will be found under the heads of *Grouse*, *Partridge*, &c. But it may not be amiss to remark in this place, that to beat a country in a sportsmanlike manner, a person should not go straight through it; but form circles, as it were, traversing well the ground, and taking care to give the dogs the wind as much as possible; at the same time the sportsmen should not be afraid of beating the ground over twice where he has reason to believe there is game. He who patiently beats and ranges his ground over and over again will generally kill the greatest quantity of game; and will be sure to find it where it has been left by others. A hare will

frequently suffer a person to pass within a few yards of her, without stirring; and birds will often lie so dead as to suffer themselves almost to be trodden on, before they will attempt to rise. It is a very good method for the sportsman frequently to remain stationary for a short period, as this will often cause the game to spring, which otherwise would have suffered you to pass.

Covers cannot be beat too well, particularly where you expect pheasants, as these birds lie very close, and will frequently suffer you to pass them several times without rising; they will even allow the very bush under which they are lying to be struck several times with a pole before they will rise. Pheasants are very fond of grassy, brambly, two and three years old copse; nor will it be labour lost to try the higher growths.

It will be proper to observe in this place, that the shooter should never strike either bush or hedge, or indeed any other place with his fowling-piece. Should he use the but end for this purpose, it is possible the cock may be caught by some branch, and thus cause the piece to be fatally discharged; on the contrary, should a bush, &c. be struck with the muzzle end, the sportsman will be very liable to lose his shot, or he may loosen it in such a manner as to render the barrel liable to burst on firing. It is a good method to examine occasionally, in shooting in general, whether by any means the shot has moved.

There are some few shooters who do not shut one eye in taking aim; and these of course contend that

this is the best method :—I must confess I am no proselyte to this opinion ; at the same time I am willing to admit, that there are persons of this description who contrive to kill game, and that too with greater certainty than could be expected ; yet the practice, from the very nature of it, cannot be a good one. It is absolutely impossible to take aim with that precision with both eyes open, as when one of them is shut : a person may easily be convinced of this, by shutting one eye, and looking down a gun-barrel, (or a straight stick,) and then doing the same with both eyes open.

Amongst sportsmen, there will be found some who ride when taking this diversion, which must of course be much less fatiguing, in an open country in particular. But wherever a horse is used, a servant should always attend : in fact those who use horses generally are attended by several, as well to load their guns as for other purposes ; and this, for the sake of distinction, may be called sporting in the first style. These gentlemen, so far from training their own dogs, perhaps are unacquainted even with their names ! They are attended by their game-keepers to load their guns, and hunt the dogs ; so that all they do is merely to fire them off. At the same time they go to such places only where game is in the greatest plenty ; and where it happens that one of these first-style sportsmen is a good shot, they make such a slaughter of birds, as more nearly approximates poaching than fair sporting. After all, though these gentlemen sport on a grand scale, they are by no means either true or keen sportsmen. One of the latter description will train his own



dogs, hunt them himself; and, in fact attend to every thing appertaining in any degree to this diversion.— The mere slaughtering of birds or hares is barren amusement indeed, when no interest is felt for the manner in which a dog ranges his ground, finds the game, &c. The true sportsman prides himself more on the behaviour and discipline of his dogs, than on being able to destroy an abundance of game in a short time.

Horses, in an enclosed country, I am of opinion, are of little use; but in grouse shooting on the mountains they certainly diminish the fatigue; and for this purpose ponies are used which have been so accustomed to the sport, as to be perfectly reconciled to the firing of a gun, and in other respects docile and obedient.

Now, supposing a gentleman has to go ten or a dozen miles in the morning, before he gets to the ground he intends to shoot upon, it will be necessary that the dogs should ride as well as the sportsman, in order to have them fresh. There is no method I know of so convenient and economical as a gig, so made as that two or three dogs may be put conveniently under the seat. By this means, both the shooter and dogs will be as fit for the sport as when they started from home. On a shooting excursion to Scotland, or indeed to any distant part, a gig of this description will be found a very convenient vehicle; as, should any of your dogs become lame on the road, you can immediately put them in your gig.

Other equipments, however, will be found essentially necessary on an excursion to the Highlands. The

sportsman should provide himself with a complete case, containing every thing necessary, not only to clean his fowling-piece, but also to repair those parts which are liable to become broken or out of order, such as the breaking of the cock, main-spring, &c. as gunsmiths, or indeed any person capable of doing these jobs, are seldom to be met with in the Highlands of Scotland.

As to the colour of the shooter's dress, green is supposed to be the best in the early part of the season, and, when winter approaches, a kind of light brown, resembling stubble: this last colour will be found to answer throughout the season.

I conceive I cannot better conclude the present article than by a few remarks on the double-barrelled fowling-piece, particularly as it is now so very generally used. It is very obvious that more game may be killed with a double than with a single-barrel; but the next question which naturally presents itself is, whether this advantage is not more than counterbalanced by the greater danger attending a double-barrel. In order to elucidate this question, I will beg leave to relate a circumstance which happened to myself:—At the latter end of the year of 1803, (I believe in the month of November), the left barrel of my fowling-piece suddenly discharged itself, as it was reclining on my left arm! Luckily no mischief ensued, as the muzzle of the piece was pointed into the air. Now, about five minutes before, I had fired at and missed a snipe; others rose, but they were out of gun shot, and I did not fire; yet I suppose I must have cocked the left lock with that intention, and forgot to let it down

again: this is the only way I can account for it, I had re-loaded the right barrel, and walked about one hundred and fifty paces, when the left went off. This solitary instance might be sufficient to shew how careful a sportsman should be who uses a double-barrel, since there is not the smallest doubt that many fatal accidents have happened through similar inadvertencies. Now, in shooting with a double gun, a person should never cock both locks at once, as the recoil produced by the firing of the first barrel, might cause the discharge of the second; should there be occasion to fire the second barrel, the gun should be taken from the shoulder and deliberately cocked; and many double shots will no doubt occur, particularly at the beginning of the season. Double-barrels too are more likely to burst than single ones, from the circumstance of their being in general much thinner; the reason of their being made thinner is, no doubt, in order to render them as light as possible, so as not to overload the sportsman. However, I am inclined to believe that little is to be feared on this head, supposing the barrels are twisted stubs, and that great care is taken to keep them clean. Neither double nor single-barrels should be fired more than twenty-five times, without being cleaned, that is, supposing the twenty-five times took place in one day: for most assuredly it is advisable to clean the fowling-piece on returning home, though it may have been fired but once. If a gun has proper attention paid to it in this respect, and care taken to load it as it ought to be, bursting will rarely, if ever,



happen. It is, in fact, from these two causes that all bursting of guns arises, supposing such guns have been properly proved.

From these observations, it will easily be perceived, that the double-barrelled fowling-piece is much more dangerous than the single-barrelled one. I would therefore advise those sportsmen who make use of double-guns, in the first place not to be afraid of carrying an extra pound or two, in order to render the barrels stronger: and I can assure the reader, this method I have adopted myself: for my double-barrel is considerably heavier than those which are commonly made use of. But, as has been before observed, the danger of barrels bursting with proper management, is trifling, compared to that which attends unwarily leaving one cocked. I would therefore wish to impress on the mind of the sportsman, the very strong necessity of uncommon care in this respect. Whenever the gun has been taken from the position in which it is carried, with intention to fire, and both (or perhaps not either) of the barrels should not be discharged, the sportsman should make it a rule, on these occasions, to observe, whether by any means he has left the other cocked. Always, after getting through a hedge too, a gun should be examined in this respect, as the branches may possibly have cocked it. These two last remarks apply as well to the single as the double gun, though not in so great a degree.

I shall now subjoin a few receipts, which, I trust, will be worth the sportsman's attention.

*To keep a Fowling-piece from rusting.*

Take six ounces of camphor, and two pounds of hog's lard, dissolve them together, take off the scum, and add as much black lead as will bring the mixture to an iron colour, with which cover your fowling-piece, and let it remain thus for twenty-four hours, after which clean it well with a linen cloth: by this means rust will be prevented for a considerable time.

The best method, perhaps, of preserving the inside of the barrel from rusting, during the sporting recess, is to fill it with suet.

The best oil for the lock of a fowling-piece is that which is extracted from sheeps' feet, as it is less liable to clog, as well as a better preventive from rust than sweet oil, or indeed than any vegetable oil.

*Receipts for making Shoes resist Water.*

Half a pound of tallow, four ounces of hog's lard, four ounces of turpentine, two ounces of bees-wax, and the same quantity of olive oil; let the whole be melted together over a fire, during which time it should be frequently stirred.

*Another.*—Six ounces of bees-wax, two ounces of virgin's wax, one ounce of hard tallow, and one small barrel of lamp-black: these should be well mixed and boiled together in an earthen pot, glazed on the inside. On taking it off the fire, an ounce of plum-tree gum, beaten small, should be put into it. It should be poured out gradually, and stirred until it is cold.

*Another.*—One pint of linseed oil, half-a-pound of mutton suet, eight ounces of bees-wax, and one penny-worth of rosin : the whole to be boiled together.

*Another.*—If the shoes are new, take half-a-pound of bees-wax, a quarter of a pound of rosin, and one pound of rendered tallow : to be boiled well together, and should be warmed before using.

N.B. It is hardly necessary to mention, that the shoes should be cleaned well from the dirt, and perfectly dry, before the application of any of the above receipts.

*A Receipt to poison Mountains and other Lands.*

A large quantity of nux-vomica, and an equal quantity of arsenic, mixed well together, and made into a thick paste, with wheaten flour, to be divided into balls of half an ounce each ; these balls should be dipped in tallow until they are covered thickly, in order to prevent the wet from injuring them ; and, if properly dipped, will remain perfect the whole of the season ; on the contrary, if the least drop of water touches the inside poison, it will dissolve, and become useless ; tallow will also be an additional inducement for dogs to take it.

As these pills are sometimes used for the purpose of preserving grouse, it may not be amiss to inform the reader of the manner in which they are disposed. The pills are placed in a sort of line round the property meant to be preserved, and a second line placed at some distance within the first ; in order, in case the dog misses the first line, he may take the second. The



pills are placed on the top of a small stone, a bit of wood, or something to prevent them touching the ground; at the same time the heath should be drawn round, so as to keep them from the sight of the poacher. The places where the poison is laid must be so marked, as to enable the keepers to pick up every pill whenever they think proper: for without this caution, it would preclude the owner of the property from shooting as well as strangers. This method, I believe, is practised only in Ireland; and a printed notice issued, stating that such a property is poisoned. But I must confess, I by no means approve of this method of preserving game, since, if by chance a valuable dog happen to stray to any of these places so preserved, his destruction is the certain consequence. A dog seldom outlives ten minutes after taking this poison, unless immediate relief is administered. (For which purpose see receipts, page 58.)

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## WILD DUCK SHOOTING.

It was certainly my intention, on first beginning this volume, not to have mentioned this subject, as being a diversion by no means gentlemanly, and calculated at the same time to bring on disease and death, owing to the colds which are almost certain to be caught, by walking in the marshes and other wet places, where alone these fowls are to be found. However, should the sportsman be anxious for duck shooting, let him,

in the first place, procure a strong pair of boots, and anoint them liberally with some one of the compositions, for the making of which receipts have been just given, (under the head, *Receipts for making shoes resist water,*) and the first of those receipts is, perhaps, the best.

The dog best calculated for this diversion is a water-spaniel, which should be taught to fetch a duck out of the water, in case of one so falling after being shot. As to a dog *setting* this kind of game it is quite out of the question. The places where ducks are known to resort, should be beat with as little noise as possible, and the sportsman must take his chance of their rising within gun-shot.

The birds may be shot in winter, and especially in frosty weather, at the dawn of day, and also at the dusk of the evening, when they fly in search of food. In very severe frosts they are compelled to seek those springs and running streams that do not freeze, in order to find aquatic herbs, which, at this period, are their only food. The shooter should then follow the course of these streams, as wild ducks will be sure to be found there; and they, at this time, will suffer the sportsman to approach sufficiently near. Small boats are useful on large pieces of water.

## GAME LAWS.

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THE sacred writings inform us, that at the first distribution of things, the bountiful Creator gave to man, "dominion over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the face of the earth." This undoubtedly appears to have been a general and unqualified donation without preference or exclusive right in one man more than another; and, therefore, in the primitive ages of the world, we are to suppose that every one took from the common stock, without restraint or control, whatever his wants or inclination led him to desire; and while mankind continued in a state of primeval simplicity, no inconvenience would arise from this general liberty; but when they began to increase in number and connexions, and the establishment of society gave rise to complicated interests, this method of satisfying the demands of individuals was found to be no longer practicable, consistently with the wants and interests of the whole, as the good order of civil government was constantly distracted by the turbulent contentions of various persons striving to gain or retain possession of the same object. Under these circumstances it became necessary to fix upon some certain and permanant rules for the acquisition and enjoy-



ment of the products of nature, in order that no one might encroach upon the property of another. This, as far as related to the occupation and use of the soil itself, was soon effected; but with regard to objects of a more volatile and instable nature, as deer, hares, pheasants, and other animals *feræ naturæ*, they were, on account of the difficulty of acquirement, and the uncertainty of possession when gained, allowed still to remain in common, and become the property of those who could first take them. At the present time, however, many animals of the above description are no longer regarded as the common property of mankind, and the right of the first taker; but, by the municipal laws of England, and indeed of most other nations, are deemed to be *appropriated* property, belonging exclusively to a particular description of persons, who (*and who only*) are allowed the privilege of taking or destroying them.

With regard to the rise and progress of these prohibitions, it will be found, Sir W. Blackstone observes, (2nd. vol. Com. 413,) that they were introduced into Europe at the same time, and by the same policy, as gave birth to the feudal system of tenures. When the leaders of the northern ravagers of Europe, in the third century, came to settle the economy of a vanquished country, their policy led them to keep the *rustici* or natives in as low a condition as possible; and especially to prohibit them the use of arms. There was not any thing could do this more effectually than a prohibition of hunting and sporting: this right, therefore, they reserved to themselves, and those on

whom they choose to bestow it, which were only the capital feudatories or greater barons. Accordingly we find, in the feudal constitutions, one and the same law prohibiting the *rustici* in general from carrying arms, and also proscribing the use of nets, snares, and other engines for destroying the game.

Hunting in this country was always esteemed a princely diversion ; and in the time of the Britons (who derived much of their subsistence from the chase), the island abounded with all sorts of game ; but, under the Saxon government, when the lands came to be enclosed and cultivated, the wild and untameable animals fled into the woody and desert tracts, which (not having been disposed of in the first distribution of lands,) were held to belong to the sovereign, who, therefore, reserved the game, with which they were well stocked, for his own use and diversion ; but every *freeholder* had a right of sporting upon *his own territories*, provided he abstained from the king's forests. However, upon the Norman conquest, a new doctrine took place, and the liberty of pursuing and taking such animals as were accounted game, was then held, upon whatever territory found, to belong solely to the king, or to such as acted under his authority ; and this right was exerted with the utmost rigour, and the most horrid tyranny was exercised in order to preserve the game for the royal diversion.

This gave rise to the *Charta de Foresta*, by which many forests were disafforested, and wholesome regulations made with regard to such as remained ; and a variety of subsequent statutes, together with the long acquies-

cence of the crown, have at length rendered this prerogative no longer grievous to the subject.

But as the king reserved to himself the *forests* for his own exclusive diversion, so he granted out, from time to time, other tracts of land to his subjects, under the names of *chases* or *parks*, or gave them licence to make such on their own grounds, which must be allowed are smaller forests in the hands of a subject, but not governed by forest laws; and, by the common law, no person is allowed to take or kill any beast of chase, but such as hath an ancient chase or park, unless they are also beasts of prey.

As to all inferior species of game, termed *beasts and fowls of warren*, the liberty of taking or killing them is another franchise or royalty, derived likewise from the crown, and called *free-warren*; which signifies preservation or custody, as the exclusive liberty of taking or killing fish in a public stream or river, is called a *free-fishery*, of which, however, no new franchise can at present be granted by the express provision of *Magna Charta*, c. 16. The principal intention of granting a person these franchises, was in order to protect the game, by giving him a sole and exclusive power of killing it himself, on condition that he prevented others from doing so. And no man, but he who has a chase or free-warren by grant from the crown, or prescription, which supposes one, can justify hunting or sporting on another man's soil; or, indeed, in thorough strictness of our common law, either hunting or sporting at all. Hence we may conclude, that the king, by his prerogative, and such persons as have under his



authority the *royal franchise of chase, park, or free-warren*, are the only persons who may acquire any property, however fugitive and transitory, in these animals *feræ naturæ* while living; which is said to be vested in them *propter privilegium* \*. At the same time, it may be observed, that such persons as may thus lawfully hunt, fish, or fowl, *ratione privilegii*, have only a qualified property in these animals, as it is neither absolute nor permanent, but lasting only so long as the game shall remain within the limits of such respective franchise, liberty, or manor, and ceasing the instant it voluntarily passes out of it; for property consists in the possession, which possession commences by a person finding it in his own liberty, and is continued by the immediate pursuit.

Having thus briefly inquired into the origin and history of the game laws, and suggested the principles and political reasons on which they appear to be founded, I shall proceed to enumerate such particular provisions respecting them, as are now subsisting by the laws of England, and which it is absolutely necessary for every shooter to become acquainted with.

\* This doctrine has lately been controverted by an ingenious editor of Blackstone. See 2 Com. 418.

## QUALIFICATION.

THE estate required to exempt the possessor from the penalties of the game laws, has many times varied. In the reign of Richard II. (which is the first time we meet with any defined qualification,) it was only forty shillings; in the reign of James I. it was advanced to ten pounds; and in that of Charles II. (when the last qualification act was passed) to one hundred pounds per annum. The several acts are still in force; and as the prosecutor may resort to any of them, accordingly as he is inclined to be more or less severe against the offender, it will be necessary to insert them all, though not at equal length.

The first qualification relating to game, (as observed above) is found in statute 13 Richard II. c. 13.; by which it is enacted, that no layman, who hath not lands or tenements of forty shillings a-year, or clergyman not being advanced to ten pounds a-year, shall have any greyhound, hound, or other dog, to hunt, nor shall use any ferrets, hays, nets, hare-pipes, cords, or other engines, for taking or destroying *hares* or *conies*, or other *gentlemen's game*, on pain of one year's imprisonment, to be inflicted by the justices at their quarter sessions.

Then follows 1 Jac. I. c. 27. (but repealed by 43 Geo. III. c. 93. so far as concerns *hares*) by which it is enacted, that every person, unless seized in his own, or his wife's right, of an estate of inheritance of ten pounds a-year, or goods to the value of two hundred pounds;

or unless he be the son of a lord or knight, or the son and heir apparent of an esquire, who shall keep any greyhound for coursing of deer or hares, or any *setting dog* or *net* to take *pheasants* or *partridges*, and be thereof convicted by confession, or oath of *two* witnesses, before *two* justices of the peace, he shall be committed to gaol for three months, unless he pay twenty shillings to the poor; or, after one month's imprisonment, be bound with two sureties, in twenty pounds each, not to offend again.

And by 7 Jac. I. c. 11. (relating to *partridges* and *pheasants only*) there is an express provision, authorizing *every person having free-warren*, and every lord of a *manor*, and also every *freeholder* seised in his own or his wife's right of lands or hereditaments, of the clear yearly value of forty pounds, by themselves, or by their household servants duly authorized, to take *partridges* and *pheasants* in the day time, between *Michaelmas* and *Christmas*, on their own, or their master's free-warren, manor, or freehold.

The last statute relating to this head, and that which is most worthy of notice, is the 22d and 23d Car. II. c. 25. by which it is provided, that every person, not having *lands* or *tenements*, or *some other estate of inheritance*\*, in his own or his wife's right† of the clear‡

\* A vicar in respect of his church, has not an estate of inheritance, but for his life only. See Caldecot's Cases, 188.

† This is not to be understood of a *tenant by curtesy*, but of one whose *wife is living*. Co. Lit. 351.

‡ The estate must be clear of all mortgages or incumbrances created by the owner, or by those under whom he claims. Caldecot's Cases, 230.



yearly value of one hundred pounds; or for a term of life, or having lease or leases of ninety-nine years, or for any longer term of the yearly value of £150, other than the son and heir apparent of an esquire, or other persons of higher degree; and the owners and keepers of forests, parks, chases, and warrens, being stocked with deer or conies, for their necessary use, in respect to the said forests, parks, &c. are declared to be persons by the law of this realm, not allowed to have or keep for themselves, or *any other person*\*, guns, bows, greyhounds, setting-dogs, ferrets, coney-dogs, lurchers, hays, nets, low-bells, hare-pipes, gins, snares, or other engines, for the taking and killing conies, hares, pheasants, partridges, or other game, but shall be prohibited to have, use, or keep the same.

For the sake of perspicuity, it may not be amiss to present the reader with an abstract of the *qualification* required by this act, as determined by the resolutions of the courts.

1. Every person having lands or other estates of inheritance, of the clear yearly value of £100.

2. Or for a term of life, or lease, or leases, for ninety-nine years, or any longer term, of the clear yearly value of £150.

3. The sons and heirs apparent of esquires†, or of other persons of high degree.

\* An *unqualified* person cannot therefore lawfully keep the dogs of a person *qualified*; and yet this is generally required of a tenant by his landlord.

† Esquires are---The younger sons of noblemen and their heirs male for ever. The four esquires of the king's body. The eld-

4. The owner or keeper of any forest, park, chase, or warren.

5. The lord of any manor or royalty.

6. The game-keeper of any lord or lady of the manor, provided he be a person qualified, or really and truly a servant to such lord or lady, or immediately appointed or employed to kill game, for the sole use of such lord or lady. [These two last qualifications arise from stat. 5 Anne \*, and 3 Geo. I. hereafter to be mentioned.]

We now come to the act most frequently, I believe, resorted to at this day, and which, indeed, is the most efficacious. By 5 Anne, c. 14. s. 4. it is enacted, if any person, not qualified as above, shall keep or use † any grey-hounds, setting-dogs, hays, lurchers ‡, or trumels, or any other engines §, to kill and destroy the

est sons of baronets or knights of the bath, and knights bachelors, and their heirs male in the right line. A justice of the peace is also an esquire for the time he is in commission, but no longer. (*Blount.*)—Persons of higher degree than esquires are colonels, serjeants at law, and doctors in the three learned professions; but neither esquires, nor any of these are qualified to kill game, unless they have the requisite estate, though their sons are qualified without any estate. This certainly appears very unreasonable, but it has been fully settled to be the true construction of the act.

\* By the 48 Geo. III. c. 93. this act is repealed.

† Walking about with *intent* to kill game, is *using* within this statute. It would, perhaps, be difficult to prove the *intent* in some cases.

‡ This, being a penal act, must be strictly construed, and will not, therefore, extend by any *equitable* construction, to other dogs than those here enumerated.

§ A gun is not such an engine, the bare keeping of which is pe-

game, and shall be thereof convicted, upon the oath of *one* witness, by the justice of peace where such offence is committed, he shall forfeit the sum of £5; one half to go the informer, and the other half to the poor of the parish\*, to be levied by distress†, under the warrant of justice, and for want‡ of distress, the offender shall be sent to the house of correction for three months, for the first offence; and for every after offence four months; and any *justice of the peace*, or *lord* or *lady of manors*, are allowed to take away any hare or other game, and likewise any dogs, nets, or other engines, which shall be in the custody of any person not qualified to keep the same, to their own use.

And by 22 and 23 Car. II. c. 25. s. 2. it is provided, that *gamekeepers* §, or *any other persons*, *by warrant of a justice of the peace*, may, in the day time, search the houses or other places of any such persons prohibited

nal: it must, moreover, be shewn to be used for the destruction of game. It may be further observed, that though the using a gun and a dog are each separately penal, yet, if a person go out with a gun and a dog the same day, he is subject to but one penalty. 7 Term Rep. 152. Lord Kenyon said, that where several unqualified persons offend, by going out and killing a hare, it has been determined that only one penalty can be recovered. 2 Term Rep. 713.

\* See 2 Geo. III. c. 19.

† Goods distrained for penalties under the game laws, are not *repleviable*.

‡ The justice cannot commit, if the offender have effects sufficient to answer the penalty.

§ *Game-keepers*, as well as others, must have a warrant to authorize them to search.



by this act to keep or use any dogs, nets, or other engines, aforesaid, and the same seize and keep for the use of the lord of the manor, or otherwise cut in pieces, or destroy the things so prohibited.

And by 1 Jac. I. c. 27. s. 2. every person who shall shoot at, kill, or destroy, with any gun, cross-bow, stone-bow, or long-bow, any pheasant, partridge, pigeon, heron, mallard, duck, teal, widgeon, grouse, heathcock, moorgame, or any such fowl, or any hare\* ; and the offence be proved by the confession of the party, or by the testimony of *two* witnesses upon oath, before *two* justices, where the offence shall have been committed, the party apprehended shall be committed to the common gaol, for three months, unless he pay to the church-wardens of the parish where the offence was committed, or where he was apprehended, twenty shillings, for the use of the poor, for every pheasant, partridge, pigeon, &c. he shall so take or destroy, and also within one month after commitment, become bound, with two sureties, in £20 each, to the king, not to shoot at, kill, take, or destroy any of the said games, by the means aforesaid ; and by the 7th of the same king, c. 11. s. 8. every person who shall take, kill, or destroy, any pheasant or partridge, with setting dogs and nets, or with any nets, snares, or engines, proved by confession of the party, or the testimony of one witness, taken as aforesaid, shall forfeit the like sum, and enter into the like sureties.

Also, by the annual mutiny act, if any officer or soldier shall, without leave of the lord of the manor,

\* As far as concerns hares is repealed by 48 Geo. III. c. 93. s. 1.

under his hand and seal, take, kill, or destroy any hare, coney, pheasant, partridge, pigeon, or any other sort of fowls, poultry, or fish, or his majesty's game, and be thereof convicted before a justice, on the oath of *one* witness, every officer or soldier, so offending, shall forfeit £5 to the poor of the place; and every officer, commanding in chief upon the place, shall forfeit twenty shillings for every such offence committed by any soldier under his command; and if such officer, after demand, by the constable or overseer, shall not pay the penalties within two days, he shall forfeit his commission.

And by 4 and 5 W. and Mary, c. 23. s. 3. every constable, head-borough, and tithing-man, being authorized by *one* justice of the peace, is empowered to enter in, and search the houses of suspected persons, *not qualified*; and in case any hare, partridge, pheasant, pigeon, fowl, or other game\*, shall be found, the offender, shall be carried before a justice of the peace; and if such person do not give a good account how he came by such game, or shall not, in convenient time, to be named by the justice, produce the party of whom he bought the same, or produce some creditable person to depose, on oath, the sale thereof, he shall be convicted; and shall forfeit, for every hare, partridge, fish, or other game, any sum not under five shillings, nor more than twenty; one moiety to be paid to the informer, and the other to the poor of the parish where the offence is committed, to be levied by distress, under warrants of the justice; and for want of goods to

\* This does not extend to rabbits kept in a private warren.

distrain on, the offender shall be committed to the house of correction, for a time not exceeding *one month*, nor less than *ten days*, there to be whipped, and kept to hard labour. And if any person, so produced, shall not give sufficient evidence of his innocence, he shall be convicted in the same manner as the person first charged, and so from person to person, until the first offender be discovered.

The same act, s. 10. after taking notice that great mischiefs arise from inferior tradesmen, apprentices, and other dissolute persons, neglecting their trades and employments, who follow shooting, or other game, to the ruin of themselves, and damage of their neighbours, enacts, that if any inferior tradesman \*, apprentice, or other dissolute person, shall hunt, hawk, fish, or fowl (unless in company with the master of such apprentice duly qualified), such persons may be sued for a wilful trespass, or coming on any person's ground, and if found guilty, shall pay the full costs.

It is necessary, in this place, to observe, that the penalties and restrictions, hitherto spoken of, relate to such persons as are not qualified, under the 22 and 23 Car. II. I shall now proceed to notice these which relate to *qualified* as well as *unqualified* persons (unless otherwise mentioned.)

\* Who are *inferior tradesmen* has not yet been determined. But by this act, should an *inferior tradesman* be a *qualified man*, still he would be liable.



## CERTIFICATE FOR KILLING GAME.

It may, perhaps, have been supposed by some, that taking out a certificate for killing game was a *sufficient qualification*. This, however, is by no means the case. The qualification by estate, &c. as before stated, is absolutely necessary. Exclusive of the restrictions and penalties inflicted by the former statutes, on persons of *mean estates*, who destroy the game of the kingdom, it is enacted by 25 Geo. III. c. 50. s. 2, that every person in Great Britain, who shall use any dog, gun, net, or other engine, for the taking or destroying of game, (such person not acting as *game-keeper*, under a deputation duly registered) shall, every year, previous to his using the same, annually take out a certificate\*; and a certificate shall be annually taken out for every deputation of a game-keeper†, granted by any lord or lady of a manor in England or Wales.

By the said act, s. 8. it is further enacted, that if any person shall use any greyhound, hound, pointer, setting dog, or other dog, or any gun, net, or other engine, for the taking or destroying any hare, pheasant, partridge, heath-fowl (*black game* generally called), or grouse, (known by the name of *red game*), or any other game whatsoever, without having obtained such certificate,

\* The duty on these certificates is three guineas, and one shilling to the collector.

† The duty on the certificate of a game-keeper is one guinea; the deputation must be on a deed stamp in addition.

he shall forfeit the sum of £20. The royal family are exempt from this act.

The said act also further provides, that the certificate, thereby directed to be taken out, shall not authorize *any person* to use greyhound, hound, pointer, setting dog, spaniel, or other dog, or any gun, net, or other engine, for the taking or destroying of game, *at any time, or in any manner prohibited by former acts*; nor shall authorize any person to use the same, unless such person shall be *properly qualified* so to do, according to the laws now in force; but shall, notwithstanding such certificate, be liable to the same penalties as are inflicted by former acts, now existing, and which have been detailed in the preceding pages, under the head *Qualification*,

This act, however, is now altered, and some other birds are designated as game. The duties also are now collected in a different and a much better manner by 48. Geo. III. c. 55. by which it is enacted, that every person who shall use any dog, gun, net, or other engine, for taking or destroying any game whatever, or any *woodcock, snipe, landrail, or quail, or any conies*, in any part of Great Britain, shall pay annually three guineas.

But if such person be a servant to any person charged, in respect to such servant, to the duties granted on servants by this act, and shall use any dog, gun, net, or other engine, for the before-mentioned purposes, upon any manor or royalty in England, Wales, or Berwick-upon-Tweed, or on any lands in Scotland, by virtue of any deputation or appointment, duly registered or en-

tered as game-keeper thereto, there shall be charged the annual sum of one guinea.

Snipes and woodcocks may be taken in nets or springes, without certificate or qualification, as may also rabbits in warren, or any enclosed ground, or by persons on lands in their own possession, either personally or by their servants.

Sect. 1. By this it is enacted, that every person who shall use any dog, gun, net, or other engine, for the taking or killing of game, shall, before he uses the same in any year, pay unto the collectors of the duties for the parish, ward, or place, wherein he may reside, the duty hereby made payable, and shall, in return, obtain a certificate, which shall continue in force until and upon the 5th of April next, after the time of issuing the same, but no longer.

Sect. 2. Every collector, on application being made to him, by any person residing within the limits of his collection, and on payment of the duty, shall give a receipt, signed by such collector, for which receipt he shall be entitled to demand one shilling over and above the duty, as a compensation for his trouble.

Sect. 3. Every receipt, delivered to the clerk of the commissioners acting for the district wherein the person resides, shall be exchanged for a certificate made out, according to the forms in this act, corresponding with such receipt, which certificate the said clerk shall make out on demand, and deliver gratis to such person in exchange for his receipt.

Sect. 4. The receipts so exchanged, to be entered by the clerks, in books kept for that purpose, and the



receipts being shewn to the commissioners, and by them examined, shall be sufficient authority to cause an assessment to be made on the persons mentioned in such receipts in the sums paid by them, which assessments shall be as binding on the several collectors, and others acting in the execution of this act, and on the parishes and places for which collectors shall have been appointed, as any assessment to be made by the commissioners under the regulations of the acts under which they act as commissioners:—the commissioners shall return duplicates thereof to the receiver general, and also to the commissioners for the affairs of taxes.

Sect. 5. The commissioners for the affairs of taxes shall cause a sufficient number of forms of receipts to be distributed amongst the several clerks, and by them to the collectors.

Sect. 6. This section appoints a surveyor of the district to execute the duty of a clerk where no clerk has been appointed.

Sect 7. Every master or mistress liable to the duties on servants, in regard to any gamekeeper, and every person granting a deputation to the servant of any other person, who shall be duly charged with the said duty on servants, in respect of such servant, whether as gamekeeper, or in any other capacity, with power and authority to use any dog, gun, &c. for the purposes before-mentioned in this act, shall be at liberty to obtain a receipt and certificate on behalf of such servant, on paying the duty; and such receipt and certificate shall be sufficient authority to assess the master of

mistress, or person granting such deputation, and obtaining such receipt and certificate; and the certificate, to be issued thereupon, shall be deemed to exempt the servant or servants therein named, during their continuance in the same capacity and service; and also to exempt any servant or servants of the same master or mistress, who shall succeed to the deputation of the same manor, royalty, or lands, within the year, for which the duty shall have been assessed, for the remainder of such year; and no such servant, in whose behalf a receipt and certificate have been obtained, shall be required to obtain a certificate for himself, nor be liable to the duty, nor to any penalty, by reason of not obtaining a certificate in his own name, or for not having paid the said duty:—provided, that every certificate granted to any person acting under any deputation, shall, upon the revocation of such deputation, be thenceforth void, as to the person therein deputed:—provided also, that if any lord or lady of any manor in England, Wales, or Berwick-on-Tweed, or proprietor of lands in Scotland, shall, on the revocation of any deputation, by virtue of which a certificate has been granted for any year, making a new deputation within the same year, to any person in his or her service, or in the service of the same master or mistress who shall have been charged, as well with the duties on servants as with the game duties granted by this act, it shall be lawful for the clerk of the commissioners of the district, and every such clerk is required, to renew the certificate in such case, for the remainder of that year, in behalf of the person so newly appointed,

without any duty or fee, by endorsing on such certificate the name and place of abode of the person to whom such last-mentioned deputation or appointment had been granted, and declaring the same to be a renewed certificate, free of duty, or any expense whatever.

Sect. 8. Enacts that neither the duty nor certificate will authorize or enable any person to use dog, gun, net, or other engine, unless duly *qualified* according to the laws now in force.

Sect. 9. No certificate under this act, for any person acting under a deputation, shall be received in evidence, or be available in law, in any prosecution where proof shall be given of using any dog, gun, &c. out of the precincts or limits of the manor, for which such deputation was granted.

Sect. 10. Enacts, that if any person shall be found using any dog, gun, &c. for the purposes before-mentioned in this act, whereof such person shall be chargeable, by any assessor or collector of the parish, where any such person shall then be, it shall be lawful for the assessor, collector, commissioner, or gamekeeper, inspector, or surveyor, or other person, assessed as aforesaid, or the owner, landlord, lessee, or occupier of land, as aforesaid, to demand and require, from the person so using such dog, gun, &c. the production of his certificate; which certificate every such person is hereby required to produce, to the person so demanding the same, and permit the same to be read, and even a copy taken of it, should the adverse party think fit; or in case no certificate shall be produced when demanded,



then it shall be lawful for the person having made such demand, to require the person so using dog, gun, &c. to declare to him his true christian and surname, as also his place of abode, and the parish or place wherein he may have been assessed to the duties by this act ; and in case the person refuse to comply with this demand, or produce any false or fictitious certificate, or give any false or fictitious name, residence, or place of assessment, every such person shall forfeit the sum of £20.

Sect. 11. The commissioners for the affairs of taxes shall, every year, cause the names and residences of all persons to whom certificates have been granted for that year, to be inserted in the newspapers circulated in each county.

Sect. 12. Enacts, that if any person shall use any dog, gun, &c. for any of the purposes mentioned in this act, without having obtained a certificate for the year wherein such person shall so use such dog, gun, &c. every such person shall be liable to the duty of three guineas for that year, and shall also forfeit the sum of £20 over and above the duty ; and the duty shall be assessed by way of surcharge in the district wherein the offence shall have been committed. The royal family are exempt from the operation of this act.

## DESTROYING GAME AT IMPROPER SEASONS OF THE YEAR.

IN order to preserve and protect the game, it is provided by 9 Anne, c. 25. s. 4. that if any person shall, by hays, tunnels, or other nets, drive and take away any wild duck, teal, widgeon, or other water fowl, in any fen, lake, or other places of resort for wild-fowl; in the moulting season, (viz. by 10 Geo. II. c. 32. *between the first of June and the first of October*) such persons, upon conviction before a justice, shall forfeit five shillings, and the hays, nets, &c. used in driving or taking such fowl, shall be destroyed.

And by 2 Geo. III. c. 19. s. 1. and 39 Geo. III. c. 34, it is enacted, that no person shall, on any pretence, take, kill, destroy, carry, sell, buy, or have in his possession, any *partridge*, between the first day of February and the first of September; or any *pheasant*, between the first day of February and the first of October, unless such pheasant or partridge has been taken in the proper season, or kept in a mew or breeding place. And any person, offending against this act, shall forfeit £5 for every partridge or pheasant so taken, &c. to be paid to the informer, with full costs of suit.

And by 13 Geo. III. c. 55. s. 2. no person shall kill, destroy, carry, sell, buy, or have in his possession, *heath-fowl*, (commonly called *black game*) between the 10th of *December* and the 20th of *August*; nor any

*grouse*, (generally called *red game*) between the 10th of December and the 12th of August; nor any *bustard*, between the 1st day of March and the 1st of September, in any year, upon pain of forfeiting a sum not exceeding £20, nor less than £10, for the first offence; and for the second, and every subsequent offence, a sum not exceeding £30, and not less than £20; one-half thereof to go to the informer, and the other to the poor of the parish; and in case the penalty be not paid, and that distress cannot be had, the offender may be committed to prison, to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding *six*, or less than *three months*.

By the 43 Geo. III. c. 112. any person taking or destroying, in the New Forest, co. Southampton, any *heath-fowl* between *December 10* and the *first of September*, shall be liable to the penalties of the 23 Geo. III. c. 55.

And for the further preservation of black and red game, it is enacted by 4 and 5 Will. and Mary, c. 22. s. 11. that no person shall, between the *2d of February* and the *24th of June*, burn any gaig, ling, heath, furze, goss, or fern, on any mountains, hills, heaths, moors, forests, chases\*, or other water, upon pain of being committed to the house of correction for any time not exceeding *one month*, nor less than *ten days*, there to be *whipped*, and kept to hard labour.

\* A chase is a privileged place for keeping of beasts of chase, or royal game, with exclusive privilege of hunting therein.



## DESTROYING GAME IN THE NIGHT, ON SUNDAYS, OR ON CHRISTMAS-DAY.

It is provided by 23 Eliz. c. 10. s. 2. and 5. that no person, of whatever estate, degree, or condition, shall take or destroy any partridges or pheasants in the *night time*, upon pain of forfeiting twenty shillings for every pheasant, and ten shillings for every partridge.

By 9 Anne, c. 25. s. 3. if any person shall take or destroy any hare, pheasant, partridge, moor-game, heath-game, or grouse, in the night time, he shall, upon conviction, before a justice of the peace, forfeit the sum of £5; one moiety thereof to go to the poor of the parish, and the other half to the informer; to be distrained for, or for want of distress, the offender to be sent to the house of correction for *three months, for the first offence*; and *four months for every after offence*. These penalties were thought insufficient; therefore, by the 13 Geo. III. c. 80. s. 1. it is enacted, that if any person shall kill, take, or destroy any hare, pheasant, partridge, moor-game, or heath-game, or use any dog, gun, snare, or other engine, for the purpose of taking, killing, or destroying the same in the night time; that is to say, between *seven o'clock at night and six in the morning*, from the *12th of October* to the *12th of February*, and between *nine o'clock at night, and four in the morning*, from the *12th of February* to the *12th of October*, such person, being thereof convicted,

upon the oath of *one person*, before *one justice of the peace*, shall forfeit a sum, not exceeding £20, nor less than £10, for the first offence; and for the second, a sum not less than £20, nor exceeding £30; half thereof to be paid to the informer, and the other to the poor of the parish.

By 4 and 5 Will. and Mary, c. 23. all lords of manors, or any persons authorized by them as gamekeepers, may, within their royalties, resist such offenders in the night time, and not be liable to punishment on account thereof.

And by 13 Geo. III. c. 80: s. 6. it is also enacted, that if any person shall, upon a Sunday, or on Christmas-day, in the *day time*, take or destroy any hare, pheasant, partridge, heath-game, or moor-game, or shall, upon a Sunday or Christmas-day, use any dog, gun, net, or other engine, for the taking or destroying thereof, such person, upon conviction, shall be subject to the penalties, as by the same act are inflicted for taking or destroying game in the *night time*.

It is enacted, by 39 and 40 Geo. III. c. 56, that if any persons, to the number of two or more, shall enter into, or be found in any forest, chase, wood, park, plantation, paddock, field, meadow, or other open or enclosed ground, in the night, viz. between the hours of eight at night and six in the morning, from the 1st day of October to the 1st of February; or between the hours of ten at night and four in the morning, from the 1st of February to the 1st of October, in each year, having any gun, net, engine, or other instrument, for

the purpose, and with the intent to destroy, take, or kill any hare, pheasant, partridge, heath-fowl, grouse, or any other game ; or if any person or persons shall be found with any gun, fire-arms, bludgeon, or any other offensive weapon, protecting, aiding, or assisting any such person, as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the ranger and occupier of any such forest, chase, &c. ; or also for him, or her, or their servants, or keeper, and also for any other person or persons to seize and apprehend, or to assist in seizing or apprehending, such offender or offenders, to convey and deliver him into the custody of a peace-officer, who is to carry such offender before some justice of the peace ; or, in case he shall not be so apprehended, any justice, on information before him, on the oath of any credible witness, may issue his warrant for the apprehension of such offender ; and if, upon his apprehension, it shall appear to such justice, on the oath of any credible witness, that the person so charged has been guilty of the said offences, every such person shall be deemed a rogue and a vagabond, within the meaning of an act of the 17th of Geo. II. c. 5. entitled, “ an act to amend and make more effectual the laws relating to rogues and vagabonds,” &c. and shall suffer such punishments as are directed to be inflicted on rogues and vagabonds.

N. B. In thus giving abstracts of the different laws relating to the destruction of game in the night, on a Sunday, or Christmas-day, I intend not to insult the generous sportsman, by warning him against offences which he would be ashamed to commit ; far be it from me to suspect him of such unsportsman-like practices.



It is to arm him against the *poacher*, that I enumerate the penalties noted in this and the three subsequent chapters.

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### OF DESTROYING THE EGGS OF WINGED GAME.

By 25 Henry VIII. c. 11. it is enacted, that no person, from the 1st of March to the last day of June, in every year, shall withdraw, take, destroy, or convey away any *eggs* of *wild-fowl*, from or in any nest where they shall be laid, upon pain of imprisonment for one year; and of forfeiting for every egg of any crane or bustard, twenty pence; and for every egg of bittern, heron, or shoveller, eight pence; and for every egg of mallard, teal, or other wild-fowl, one penny: half to the king, and half to the informer.

And by Jac. I. c. 27. s. 2. any person who shall take the *eggs* of any pheasant or partridge, out of the nest, or willingly break, spoil, or destroy the same, in the nest, shall, on conviction before two justices by confession, or oath of two witnesses, be committed to gaol for three months, unless he pay to the churchwardens, for the use of the poor, *twenty shillings for every egg*, or within one month thereafter, become bound with two sureties, in £20 each, not to offend again in the like manner.

## OF BUYING AND SELLING GAME, &amp;c.

By 1 Jac. I. c. 27. s. 4. it is enacted, that if any person shall sell, or buy to sell again\*, any deer, hare, partridge, or pheasants (except partridges and pheasants brought from abroad, or reared by the hand), he shall, on conviction, at the assizes, quarter sessions, or before two justices of the peace, forfeit forty shillings for every deer; twenty shillings for every pheasant; ten shillings for every partridge; and ten shillings for every hare: one half to go to the informer, and the other half to the poor of the parish. This act, however, was found insufficient, and therefore it was further provided by 28 Geo. II. c. 12. s. 1. that if *any* person, whether qualified or not, shall sell, expose, or offer to sell, any hare, pheasant, partridge, moor or heath game, or grouse, every such person shall, for every such offence, be liable to the same penalties, as by the act of 5 Anne, (mentioned next hereafter) are inflicted upon higlers, chapman, &c. for buying or selling game. And, in order, more effectually, to put a stop to the practice of *selling game*, it was further provided, that if any of the aforesaid game shall be found in the shop, house, or possession of any poulterer, salesman, fishmonger, cook, or pastry-cook, (or

\* Hence it would seem, that to buy game without an intention of selling it again is no offence. However, by 9 Anne, c. 25. it is penal for an unqualified person to have game in *his possession*.

by 9 Anne, c. 25. s. 3. of *any other person not qualified in his own right, or entitled under some person so qualified,*) the same shall be deemed an exposing thereof to sale.

By 5 Anne, c. 14. s. 2. it is enacted, that if any higler, chapman, carrier, inn-keeper, victualler, or ale-house-keeper, shall have in his custody any hare, partridge, pheasant, moor-game, heath-fowl; or grouse, (unless in the case of being sent by a carrier from persons qualified to kill game,) or shall buy, sell, or offer to sell any such hare, partridge, &c. he shall forfeit, on the oath of *one* witness, the sum of £5, half to the informer, and the other half to the poor of the parish, to be distrained for, or for want thereof, the offender to be committed to the house of correction for three months for the first offence, and for every after offence four months.

By s. 4. of the same act, any justice of peace and lord of a manor (within the same manor) may take to to his own use any such hare, partridge, &c. or any other game, which shall be found in the custody or possession of any such higler or other unqualified person.

And by the same act, s. 3. if any person, buying or selling of game against the said act, shall inform against any person under the same, so as that he be convicted, such informer shall be discharged of the aforesaid penalties, and shall receive the same benefit as any other informer.



## TRACING HARES IN THE SNOW, AND OF TAKING THEM IN SNARES.

By 14 and 15 Henry VIII. c. 10. it is enacted, that no person, whatever may be his estate, degree, or condition, shall trace and kill any hare in the snow, on pain of paying six shillings and eight pence for each hare.

And by 1 Jac. I. c. 27. whoever shall trace or course any hares in the snow, shall, on conviction, before two justices, on the oath of *two* witnesses, or by confession, be committed to gaol for three months, unless he pay to the church-wardens, for the use of the poor, twenty shillings for every hare he shall so take or destroy; or shall, within one month after his commitment, become bound with two sureties, in £20 each, before two justices of the peace, not to offend again. By the same act it is also provided, that every person who shall at any time take or destroy hares with hare-pipes, cords, or with any such instruments, or other engines, shall, on conviction before two justices, by confession or oath of two witnesses, suffer the like penalties.

By 22 and 33 Car. II. c. 25. s. 6. if any person be found setting or using any snares, hare-pipes, or other like engines, and be thereof convicted by confession or oath of *one* witness, before *one* justice, within one month after the offence was committed, he shall give to the party injured such satisfaction as the justice shall appoint, and pay down immediately to the over-

seers, for the use of the poor, a sum not exceeding ten shillings, otherwise shall be committed to the house of correction for a time not exceeding *one month*.

N. B. No person, whether qualified or not, either on his own property, or that of another, is authorized to shoot any *hare*.—Shooting hares is no doubt a common practice. However, the penalty for so doing is forty shillings. If a qualified person shoots several hares in one day, he pays the same penalty only as for shooting one. But hares shot on separate days make the offender liable to as many penalties.

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## OF THE APPOINTMENT, OFFICE, AND AUTHORITY OF A GAMEKEEPER.

WITH respect to the appointment of a gamekeeper, the first statute on this head is that of 22 and 23 Car. II. c. 25. s. 2. by which it is enacted, that lords of manors, or other royalties, not under the degree of an *esquire*\*, may by writing under their hands and seals, appoint gamekeepers within their manors or royalties,

\* The lord of a manor is not an *esquire* by virtue of his manor or royalty; and therefore no lord of a manor under that rank can appoint a gamekeeper whatever his estate may be. All unqualified persons acting as gamekeepers, under deputations from persons under the rank and degree of an *esquire*, are subject and liable to all the penalties of the game laws, notwithstanding such deputation.

who shall have authority to take and seize all guns, bows, greyhounds, setting-dogs, lurchers, or other dogs, to kill hares or conies; ferrets, trammels, low-bells, hays, or other nets; hare-pipes, snares, or other engines, for taking and killing of hares, rabbits, partridges, pheasants, or other game\*, which shall be used within the precincts of such manors by any persons not qualified to keep or use the same.—N. B. This statute merely authorizes gamekeepers to use certain means for the *preservation* of the game, without empowering them to *kill* it.

By 5 Anne, c. 14. s. 4. any lord or lady of a manor is authorized by writing under his or her hand and seal to empower gamekeepers to kill, within the said manor† any hare, pheasant, partridge, or other game. If, however, such gamekeeper shall sell or dispose of the game he shall so kill, without the knowledge or consent‡ of the said lord or lady, and shall be thereof convicted on complaint of such lord or lady, and the oath of one witness, before a justice of the peace, he shall be committed to the house of correction, and kept to hard labour for three months.

\* Hence it may be observed that gamekeepers are to seize instruments for the destruction of game only; but not the game itself.

† If gamekeepers are found killing game out of their proper manors they are liable to the same penalties as unqualified persons; but it has been held that their dogs and guns cannot be taken from them.

‡ Nor can he sell it with the consent of the lord or lady.—See 28 Geo. II. c. 12. under the head "Of Buying and Selling Game."



Lords or ladies of manors, by a clause in the last mentioned act, might appoint an *indefinite number of gamekeepers*; this, however, being found more conducive to the destruction of game than to its preservation, it is therefore provided, by 9 Anne, c. 25, that no lord or lady of any manor shall appoint more than *one gamekeeper*, within *one manor*, with power to kill game. Further, that the name of the person so appointed shall be entered with the clerk of the peace of the county, and a certificate thereof be granted by the said clerk on payment of one shilling for the same\*; and in case any gamekeeper, whose name shall not be so entered (unless such gamekeeper be otherwise qualified to kill game†) shall kill any hare, pheasant, &c. he shall on conviction, by the oath of one witness, before a justice, forfeit, for every such offence, the sum of £5; half to the informer, and the other half to the poor of the parish, to be levied by distress; and in case there be no distress, the offender to be sent to the house of correction for three months for the first offence, and four months for every other offence.

By 48 Geo. III. c. 93. s. 2. (which repeals 3 Geo. I. c. 11.) it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for any lord or lady of a manor to appoint and depute any person whatever, whether acting as a gamekeeper to any other person or not, or whether retained and paid for as the male servant of any other person or not; or whether a qualified person or not, to be a gamekeeper to any such manor, with authority to such, as game-keeper, to kill

\* See the head "Certificate," &c.

† If a gamekeeper be qualified in his own right, he has no occasion to enter his deputation.

game within the same, for his own use, or for the use of any other person or persons whatever, to be specified in such appointment or deputation, whether qualified or not: and no person, so appointed game-keeper, as aforesaid, and empowered to kill game for his own use, or for the use of any other person so specified, as aforesaid, and not killing any game for the use of the lord or lady of the manor, for which such deputation shall be given, shall be deemed, or taken to be, or entered, or paid for, as the game-keeper or male servant of the lord or lady making such appointment, or giving such deputation, as aforesaid: any thing in any act or acts of parliament to the contrary notwithstanding.

By sect. 3. of the same act, it is enacted, that any person appointed game-keeper, under the authority of this act, to kill game for his own use, or the use of any other person, shall have the same rights, privileges, power, and authority, as if he had been legally qualified and appointed to act as game-keeper, to kill game for the use of any lord or lady of the manor appointing such game-keeper, under any laws in force, immediately before the passing of this act.

By 25 Geo. III. c. 5 s. 2. every deputation of a game-keeper, granted to any person by any lord or lady of any manor in England or Wales, shall be registered with the clerk of the peace of the county in which the said manor lies. And if he neglect to have the same registered, and to take out a certificate of such registry, he shall forfeit £20.

N. B. Game-keepers belonging to the royal family excepted.

A new certificate must be taken out on the appoint-

ment of a new game-keeper; and any person, acting under the old certificate, subjects himself to the penalties of this act. And the compiler, for the information of his brother sportsmen, will here subjoin the form of a game-keeper's deputation or appointment (which must be written on a deed stamp.)

“ Know all men by these presents, that I, *Richard Sharp*, of Belton, in the county of Leicester, esquire, lord of the manor of Osgathorpe, in the same county, have nominated, deputed, authorized, and appointed, and by these presents do nominate, depute, authorize, and appoint *John Earp*, of Gracedieu, weaver, to be game-keeper of and within my said manor of Osgathorpe, with full power, licence, and authority, to pursue, take, and kill any hare, pheasant, partridge, or other game whatsoever, in and upon my said manor of Osgathorpe, for my sole and immediate use and benefit; and also to take and seize all such guns, bows, greyhounds, setting-dogs, lurchers, or other dogs, ferrets, trammels, low-bells, hays, or other nets, hare-pipes, snares, or other engines, for the pursuing, taking, or killing of hares, rabbits, pheasants, partridges, or other game, as shall be used within the precincts of my said manor, by any person or persons, who by law are prohibited to keep or use the same. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 24th of July, 1808.”

“ RICHARD SHARPE.” (Seal.)

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

*Thomas Jones*, of Belton, aforesaid.



## THE LAW RELATING TO RABBITS.

RABBITS, strictly speaking, are not *game*, however, as they are included in some of the acts relating to game, I conceive it may not be amiss to say a few words on this subject.

By 3 Jac. I. c. 13. it is provided, that if any person shall, by night or by day, unlawfully enter into any park or ground, enclosed with a wall, pale, or hedge, and used for the keeping of conies, and unlawfully take, chase, or kill any conies against the will of the owners, and shall be thereof convicted at the suit of the king or the injured party, at the assizes or sessions, he shall be imprisoned for three months, pay treble costs and damages to the injured party, to be assessed by the justices before whom he shall be convicted, and find sureties for his good behaviour for seven years, or remain in confinement till he does.

It is enacted by 22 and 23 Car. II. c. 25. s. 4. that if any person shall, at any time, wrongfully enter into any warren or ground lawfully used for breeding or keeping of conies, though the same *be not enclosed*, and shall take or kill any conies against the will of the owner or occupier, not having lawful title so to do, and shall be thereof convicted within one month after the offence, by confession, or oath of one witness, before a justice of the peace, he shall forfeit to the injured party treble damages and costs, and be imprisoned for

three months; and at the expiration of that period, to find sureties for his good behaviour.

And by 5 Geo. III. c. 14. it is provided, that if any person shall enter into any warren or grounds in the *night time*, and take or kill any coney against the will of the occupier or owner of the said ground, or shall be found aiding or assisting therein, and thereof be convicted at the assizes, he shall be *transported for seven years*, or suffer such other lesser punishment, by *whipping, fine, or imprisonment*, as the court shall award.

It is further enacted by 9 Geo. I. c. 22. that if any person shall appear *armed and disguised* in any warren or place where hares or conies are usually kept, or unlawfully rob any such warren, or shall (*though not armed and disguised*) rescue any person in custody for such offence, or procure any person to join him therein, he shall be deemed guilty of *felony without benefit of clergy*.

By 22 and 23 Car. II. it is provided, that no person shall kill or take in the night, any conies upon the *borders of warrens*, or other grounds lawfully used for the breeding or keeping of conies, except such person be owner of the soil, or lawful possessor of the ground whereupon such conies shall be killed, or be by him employed, upon pain of such satisfaction as the justices aforesaid shall award, and also pay to the overseers, for the use of the poor, a sum not exceeding ten shillings; or, in default thereof, be committed to the house of correction for one month.

Also, by the same act, if any person be found setting or using any *snare*s, or other like engines for the taking

of conies, and shall be convicted of the same, he shall be subject to the same penalties as mentioned in the last section.

By 3 Jac. I. c. 13. it is enacted, that if any person, not having hereditaments of the yearly value of £40, or not worth in goods the sum of £200, shall use any gun or cross-bow for killing conies; or any engine, hays, nets, ferrets, or *coney-dogs*, (except he have enclosed rabbit grounds of the yearly value of forty shillings) any other person, having hereditaments in fee, in tail, or for life, of the yearly value of £100 in his own right, or in right of his wife, may lawfully take from such offender all such engines or dogs, and keep them for his own use.

N. B. If rabbits come upon a man's ground, from a warren or elsewhere, and damage his corn, herbage, or other property, he has a right to kill them. No person, however, is justified in killing them for feeding upon a common, upon which he has a right of commonage. But should the common be so overstocked with them as to leave insufficient pasture for his cattle, the commoner may bring an action against the lord for surcharging the common.

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## THE LAW RELATING TO PIGEONS.

It may, perhaps, to many of my readers, appear superfluous to introduce this subject. But as the pigeon is a bird which occasionally presents itself to the sports-



man, and, I believe, sometimes falls a sacrifice to his wantonness, I shall just mention what I conceive to be necessary, and no more.

By 2 Geo. II. c. 29. it is enacted, that if any person shall shoot at, with an intent to kill, or shall, by any means whatever, kill or take, with a wilful intent to destroy, any house-dove or pigeon, and shall be thereof convicted by confession, on the oath of *one* witness, before *one* justice of the peace, he shall forfeit twenty shillings *to the person prosecuting*; and, if not immediately paid, the offender shall be liable to be committed to the house of correction, and kept to hard labour, for a term not exceeding three calendar months, nor less than one. The prosecution must be commenced within two months after the offence has been committed.

N. B. The owner or occupier of land may kill pigeons, if he find them destroying or damaging his corn.

## METHOD OF RECOVERING PENALTIES UNDER THE GAME LAWS.

It is necessary here to observe, that the penalties incurred by such acts, relative to game, as have been passed since the 8th of Geo. I. are recoverable in the particular manner, as in such acts is respectively prescribed: however, by that statute, c. 19. it is further provided, that in future, where any person shall be liable to any pecuniary penalty, upon conviction, before any justice of the peace, for any offence against

any law *then in being*, for the preservation of game, it shall be lawful for the prosecutor of such offender to proceed to recover the said penalty, either by information before a justice, or to sue for the same in any of the courts of record at Westminster. Provided, however, that no offender shall be prosecuted for the same offence, both by the way prescribed by that law, and by the mode prescribed by any former law; and the offender can only be convicted in one penalty on the same day.

The prosecutor is permitted, by 2 Geo. III. c. 19. to sue in the said courts for *the whole of such penalty for his own use*, either by action of debt or otherwise; and, if he recover the same, shall have double costs; and no part of the said penalty recovered shall be paid to the overseers for the use of the poor, as directed by former statutes. But such action must be brought within six lunar months after the offence has been committed.

And by 44 Geo. III. c. 98. s. 10. all actions for penalties relating to the stamp duties, must be commenced in the name of the attorney-general in England, and advocate for Scotland, or some officer of the stamp duties.

### OF COMMITTING TRESPASS IN PURSUIT OF GAME.

THERE are few sportsmen, when in pursuit of game, cautious enough as at all times to avoid trespassing, and thus subjecting themselves to actions for damages;

it will therefore be highly necessary to make a few observations on this subject.

*Trespass*, in the light we are now to consider it, is the entry of one person upon the grounds of another, without the occupier's consent, and doing some damage, however trifling, to his real property:—Every such entry, therefore, by the law, is considered (except in particular cases) as an injury to the owner, and for which legal satisfaction is recoverable, according to the malicious intent of the trespasser, and the damage actually committed. Formerly these actions were vexatiously carried to an iniquitous extent in the hands of ill-natured and illiberal persons; and who thus frequently converted themselves into oppressive engines of malice against those who had committed a trespass through ignorance and inadvertency; and, though only nominal damages might be given, the trespasser was obliged to pay the whole costs of suit. Therefore, in order as much as possible to prevent these trifling and vexatious actions, it is provided, by 43 Eliz. c. 6. and 22 and 23 Car. II. c. 9. s. 136. that where the jury who try an action of trespass give less damages than *forty shillings*, the plaintiff shall be allowed no more costs than damages, unless (by 8 and 9 Will. and Mary, c. 11.) it shall appear that the trespass was *wilful* and *malicious*\*; and is so certified to be by the

\* Where the person has been fore-warned not to come upon the land, the trespass is considered *wilful*; and *malicious*, where it is committed plainly with an intention to vex and distress the plaintiff.



judge, in which case the plaintiff shall recover full costs.

*Inferior tradesmen, apprentices, or other dissolute persons*, (by 4 and 5 Will. and Mary, c. 23. s. 10.) may be sued for going to hunt, &c. upon the ground of another, though they do *no injury*; and, if found guilty, pay *full costs* of suit.

By 25 Eliz. c. 10. it is enacted, that *no person* shall *hawk, or hunt with spaniels*, in any ground where there shall be corn or grain, which is eared or coddled, until the same shall be shocked, cocked, hilled, or copped, (without the consent of the owner) upon pain of forfeiting, for every offence, forty shillings to the owner of the said corn or grain.

N. B. These statutes relating to trespass include equally *qualified* as well as *unqualified* persons. A lord of a manor, *even within his own manor*, cannot come upon another person's ground, without being a trespasser, and subjecting himself to pay the like costs as any other person under similar circumstances. If, however, a lord of a manor have a grant of *free warren*, (which is sometimes the case) over the grounds of another person, he may justify sporting within his own franchise, though the ground be not his; but in no other respect has he any greater privilege than other qualified persons.

## REMARKS ON THE GAME LAWS.

IN making a few remarks on this subject, it is not my intention to investigate the causes which first gave rise to the Game Laws, or to dwell on the despotism of the Norman Conqueror, under whom the life of a wild boar was held in greater estimation than that of a man; but merely to examine, in the first place, how far they agree with the general spirit of the British constitution; and afterwards make a few observations which I hope will be found useful to the sportsman.

I will here take leave to transcribe the words of a favourite author\*. Speaking on this subject, he observes: "What can be more arbitrary than to talk of preserving the game, which when defined means no more than that the poor shall abstain from what the rich have taken a fancy to keep for themselves? If these birds could, like a cock or a hen, be made legal property, could they be taught to keep within certain districts, and only feed on those grounds that belong to the man whose entertainments they improve, it then might with some shew of justice be admitted, that as a man fed them, so he might claim them. But this is not the case: nor is it in the power of any man to lay a restraint upon the liberty of these birds, that when let loose put no limits to their excursions. They feed every where, upon every man's ground; and no man

\* Goldsmith.

can say these birds are fed only by me. Those birds which are nourished by all, belong to all; nor can any one man, or any set of men, lay claim to them when still continuing in a state of nature." The truth of this position must on all hands be allowed; but it will be necessary to hear what is urged on the other side of the question, before we draw a conclusion.

As a plea in favour of the Game Laws, it has been urged, that they were intended to prevent *inferior tradesmen, apprentices, and dissolute persons* from leaving their proper occupations in pursuit of this sport, to the injury or ruin of themselves and families. Now, allowing that this might have been the intention, and that such intention was good, almost daily experience proves that their operation counteracts the very effect they were meant to produce; and the rigid observance of these laws not only gave birth, but continues to encourage, those swarms of poachers which are to be met with in every part of the kingdom. The fact is, that the men of great landed property are in general so exceedingly tenacious of their game, that the monied interest, and the middling classes of life, are debarred from honourable sporting in a great measure; and thus, as every exertion is made to keep the game in the hands of a few, price rises accordingly; and great temptation and encouragement are consequently held out to those nocturnal depredators, whose existence is much to be deplored, inasmuch as many lives have been lost in different battles which have taken place between them and the gamekeepers. No longer ago than the first of last January (1809) a most lamentable



instance of this kind occurred on the estate of Edward Wilbraham Bootle, Esq. at Lathom in Lancashire.

As this transaction was attended with circumstances peculiarly distressing, I trust the reader will pardon a short relation of it:—On the night of the day above-mentioned a farmer in the neighbourhood, having been disturbed by the firing of a gun, rose from his bed, dressed himself, and went towards the place where the report of the gun had led him to believe there were *poachers*. He was not deceived, for he saw several; and unperceived by them, made the best of his way to inform Mr. Bootle's keeper of the circumstance; when, calling two others to their assistance, they went immediately (armed) in search of the poachers. They found them 12 in number, and were foolish enough to attack them. The consequence was, the poachers instantly shot one dead, severely wounded another, and, had they been farther molested, no doubt, would have killed the whole. But it appears they acted merely on the defensive; for on the keeper and his party abstaining from further assault they marched quietly away. The unfortunate being who lost his life left a widow and four or five small children to lament his untimely fate. He was a poor man, and lived with his family in a small lodge at one of the gates of Mr. Bootle's park. This gentleman, however, with that philanthropy which distinguishes his character, provided a suitable maintenance for the unhappy widow and wretched orphans.

Mr. Bootle immediately offered one hundred guineas reward, for the discovery of the offenders, with

pardon to any of them who would give information, except the very man who committed the murder; notwithstanding, the smallest discovery has not yet been made; nor indeed is it likely, when we consider the character of poachers, and the light in which poaching is viewed by the peasantry and lower orders of the people in general. The lower classes are well aware that poaching is an offence against the law; but, at the same time, they regard the game laws as founded in despotism, and totally repugnant to every principle of justice; and, consequently, they are far from considering it morally wrong to infringe, as often as opportunity offers, those laws which make poaching a crime. Although these people would despise a thief, and shun his company, yet they look upon a poacher as a fair, if not an enviable character: a murderer they would abhor, and shudder, perhaps, at the idea of being in his company; yet a poacher, who had killed a game-keeper in his own defence, would be supposed to have acted, if not strictly right, at least as having committed a crime to which stern necessity had constrained him, and on that account excusable. Poachers too, amongst themselves, are actuated by principles of honour; they regard it as an offence, never to be forgiven, for one of their own body to impeach his confederate; this may therefore account, in a great measure, for the non-discovery of the murder above-mentioned; for, however good the inclination of any one of them might be, to make the wished-for discovery, fear of the consequences, which might afterwards arise from some of the poaching fraternity, would be sufficient to ensure

silence: this reason is certainly very plausible, as an instance of one poacher impeaching another has rarely if ever happened.

There is another serious evil attending this monopoly of game, which is that of rendering game-keepers dishonest: the high price of pheasants, partridges, &c. and the ready and general sale which is always open for them, is too great a temptation to this last class of men to be always withstood; and there is no doubt but many of them destroy and sell more of their master's game, than perhaps it is in the power of a numerous gang of poachers to effect. It is evident, therefore, that the very means which are adopted to prevent poaching, not only encourage it in a superior degree, but are also the foundation of all those evils which spring therefrom; for it must be here observed, that there are other very serious evils arising from this source, independent of those immediately connected with the practice of poaching. A man, for instance, who takes to poaching, after practising it for some time, frequently gets to robbing hen-roosts; thus habituating himself to vice, he steps from one gradation to another, till at length transportation becomes his lot, or he ends his days on the gallows. The arbitrary and unlawful manner too, in which these great landed property men (who are frequently justices of the peace) order their game-keepers or other servants to search the cottages of the peasants for snares, nets, or guns; and the manner in which these petty despots execute such orders, very often stimulate them to retaliation and re-



venge, and they are thus prompted to crimes which otherwise would have never entered their heads.

Seeing, therefore, that poaching is the source whence spring so many evils, would it not be advisable to adopt some mode, in order totally to prevent it? The moralist, and the man of reflection will answer, certainly it would; provided at the same time the remedy will not prove worse than the disease. Now the remedy is not only simple, but attended with no inconvenience: it is merely to remove the cause. Take away the cause, and the effect will cease; is an axiom no one will attempt to deny. The cause of poaching arises solely from that rigour with which the game laws are put in force by the gentlemen of great landed property; who, indeed, but too frequently convert them into an engine of litigious oppression. I do not mean to say this is the case with all; but I am inclined to believe the exceptions are few. Even members of the British senate, who complain of the encroachments of the crown, and make long harangues in favour of the liberty of the people, are frequently found to manifest a great deal of the tyrannical spirit of the Norman conqueror in regard to game; which, as has been before observed, can fairly and strictly be called the absolute property of no one.

Now, if by chance a gentleman (who is qualified, and has taken out a certificate) happens to stray on one of these preserved manors, (and, I believe, few will now be found which are not preserved) he is immediately assailed by the tenantry of such manor, or an in-

solent game-keeper, and ordered off, after having been compelled to produce his certificate to an ignorant fellow, who perhaps is unable to read it. Nor does it always stop here: if the lord of the manor happen to be particularly ill-natured, which is not unfrequently the case, an attorney receives orders to try the qualification of the sportsman, without any apparent reason, further than that of endeavouring to ruin him in a law suit by the effect of a longer purse.

By thus depriving the honourable sportsman of a little recreation, which is attended with neither evil to the lord of the manor, nor injury to the occupier of the land, arises that encouragement to the poacher so much to be deplored. Now the fact is, if great landed property men would suffer fair and honourable sportsmen to come upon their manors, poaching, I am persuaded, would entirely cease, or at least instances of it would rarely occur. For by this means, the poacher would be at a loss for a market, the price of his commodity would consequently fall, and the precarious emolument arising therefrom, would be found an insufficient remuneration for his time and danger. The sportsman too, thus indulged, would find it his interest, as well as a kind of gratitude to the lord on whose manor he was not molested, to prevent as much as in his power a practice so pregnant with moral evil, and which is but too frequently the cause of murder. Game too, by this means, would be much more plentiful, as what would thus be shot by sportsmen is nothing in comparison to what is destroyed by poachers.

The case, however, at present, is far different: I am

acquainted with several very respectable gentlemen, (that take out certificates too) who declare they would rather assist, than be the means of prosecuting, a poacher ; and that this is the general feeling, I have not the smallest hesitation in asserting. In fact, I believe, there are few market-towns in which there is not a sort of regular house where poachers have an agent that disposes of their game. These houses are generally well known, but the traffic is seldom interrupted. I know indeed several gentlemen who frequently purchase game at a house of this description.

It must be allowed that many of these great lordlings will, on being asked, give permission, perhaps, for a gentleman to shoot *one* day on their manor ; yet there is something so repugnant in the idea of soliciting permission for what a person conceives (after paying £3. 4s. for a licence) he has already a right to, and particularly too for the short space of *one* day, that many will not submit to the degradation.

I am confident, that as long as the present system is practised of invidiously bringing actions for trespass, trying qualifications, and the various other methods of torturing the sportsman of small fortune, so long will poachers abound, and numerous keepers and their assistants will in vain be employed to protect the game from nocturnal (and also diurnal) depredation. In fact, poaching has arrived at that pitch of systematic perfection, that no possible method will ever prevent it, but the one above described.

My motive, in the preceding remarks, has been merely to shew the futility of attempting to preserve



game, by that invidious method so generally adopted, viz. of most tenaciously, arbitrarily, and indiscriminately prohibiting sporting upon manors in general; appointing numerous guards to protect the game, (who, perhaps, are as great poachers as any in the kingdom,) and prosecuting with the most litigious oppression, in every case where it is possible for an action to lie. Much, however, to the credit of some of the English judges, many of these actions, when brought to trial, have been spurned with contempt. Lord Ellenborough has, more than once, expressed his disapprobation of these vexatious law-suits; and when, about two years ago, a trial came before him for a poor man taking up a hare that had been caught in a snare, his lordship observed, that he by no means wished to stretch the game laws; but the words in the act were so plain, making the mere possession penal, that the jury must find him guilty. In the case of *Harker v. Allen*, at the York spring assizes, in 1803, Mr. Serjeant Cockell, in his address to the jury, said, "he trusted there was not a judge or magistrate in this kingdom, who would put the penalties in force against a gentleman who sported honourably." Many other instances might be given to shew that both judges and counsel regard the game laws in a very different light from that of engines of legal persecution.

Having said thus much, it may not be amiss to examine how far the great land-holders, and lords of manors themselves, act consistently with the strict letter of the law. In the first place, it will be found that many persons appoint game-keepers, who are not le-

gally qualified so to do. By the 23. Car. II. c. 25. s. 2. no person under the degree of an *esquire* has a right to appoint a game-keeper ; and yet this is very common : there are numbers of game-keepers appointed by gentlemen who are under the degree of *esquire* \* in the eye of the law, though fashionable politeness may dub them so. The tenantry too of these lordlings are generally required to keep sporting dogs for their landlord's amusement. This practice also is illegal (unless the tenant be duly qualified), and every unqualified person *keeping* a dog of this description, is liable to a penalty of £5, and the dog may be seized. I am inclined to believe, that these are not the only instances where strict adherence to the law is disregarded, by those who are so forward to compel a rigid observance of it in others.

Now, it would evidently appear, from what has been asserted in the preceding pages, that these *strict preserving gentlemen* are not actuated by motives of justice and equity, since they so glaringly violate the law ; but seem to be influenced solely by an overbearing and arbitrary spirit. I would wish these gentlemen seriously to reflect on the consequences resulting from the present very fashionable method of preserving game ; and to endeavour, by a contrary conduct, to prevent those mischiefs which naturally arise from poaching.

Wherever manors are so rigidly preserved, there will always be plenty of poachers. Numbers of persons who, in other respects, are fair and honourable sports-

\* For who are esquires, properly speaking, see the Article *Game Laws*, under the head *Qualification*.

men, will absolutely employ poachers on those particular manors, where they are imperiously ordered not to sport.

I shall now proceed to make a few remarks, which, I trust, will be acceptable, as well as useful to the sportsman ; and to me, indeed, they appear absolutely necessary.

It is, I believe, generally supposed, that game-keepers have a right to warn persons of their respective manors, merely from their authority as game-keepers ; but this is not the case. In order to do this *legally*, it is necessary for the keeper to have a proper notice drawn up, and signed by the real occupier of the ground the person is sporting on, for without this his notice is of no effect. Indeed, the lord of the manor himself is precisely in the same state ; he too must have a notice signed by the tenant, or he has no authority to warn persons from trespassing. The notice should be drawn up in the following manner :

*To Mr. Benjamin Partridge.*

*Sept. 5, 1809.*

I hereby give you notice, that if you hunt, set, net, hawk, fish, or fowl, or use any other method to destroy the game, upon any of my lands, manors, or royalties, within (such grounds), I shall deem you a wilful trespasser, and proceed against you as the law directs.

*To Mr. Benjamin Partridge.*

JOHN SULKY.

However, if a game-keeper procures notices signed by each tenant, and inserts the name of the trespasser, it is deemed a legal warning. This point was settled



at the York spring assizes, in 1803, in the action of *Squire v. Potter*.

It is necessary for a gamekeeper, before he demands sight of a sportsman's certificate, to produce his own, as also his deputation ; for without producing these, he has no right whatever to see the certificate of any person ; but on these being produced, the sportsman must either shew his own, or give his address, under a penalty of £20. I would advise gentlemen, when they are accosted by a game-keeper, always to make them shew their certificate and deputation. If they are three or four miles from home, and without these necessary qualifications, as they must of course go this distance to enable them to discharge the sportsman from the manor, the latter will thus have an opportunity afforded of pursuing his diversion for some time at least. But a *verbal* notice from the real occupier of the land will stand good in law ; and he has a right to demand the sight of your certificate. Should the sportsman meet with any person, whose certificate he wishes to see, he must first shew his own. Now, if a tenant gives permission to sport on his grounds, there is no occasion to ask the consent of the landlord.

The authority of a game-keeper is much more limited than the generality of these men would wish people to understand. If a game-keeper is found shooting off the manor for which he was appointed, he is liable to the regular penalties of the game laws, just the same as a poacher. Nor is a keeper authorized (nor the lord of a manor himself) to shoot any person's

dog, unless such dog were found alone, and in the act of chasing deer, or killing game; nor even then, without previously giving the owner of the dog notice to keep it away. An action of this kind was tried a few years back at Hertford assizes, *Atkinson v. Kent*. In this case it was agreed to withdraw a juror, the defendant undertaking to pay all the costs, and five guineas for the dog.

I will here beg leave to add a few remarks on the legal property, which persons duly qualified have, in particular cases, to the game they are in pursuit of: This is, in general, so long only as it remains within the limits of the manor or liberty of the owner; yet, it is held, that if after having been started upon a person's own grounds, it be pursued and killed on those of another, it will, notwithstanding, be his own property, because the possession which he gained, by finding it within his own liberty, is continued by the immediate pursuit. 11 Mod. Rep. 75. But should he start it on the ground of another person, and there kill it, it will belong to him on whose ground it was killed, because the property arises *ratione soli*. Lord Raym. 251. Also, if having been started in a person's ground, (not being his own) it be killed in that of a *third* person, it will belong neither to him in whose ground it was started, nor to him on whose ground it was killed, but will, in this case, become the property of the person who started and killed it, though, strictly speaking, he will be guilty of a trespass on the grounds of both the other persons.

If a stranger start game in the chase or free-warren of one man, and hunt it into the liberty of another,

the property will continue in the owner of the chase or warren ; and the keeper may pursue and take it, the property continuing the same, though driven out of the liberty ; for whilst the keeper pursues it, it does not in law pass into a new liberty, but still continues to belong to the chase or warren, which is a place of privilege and public establishment. Bac. Abr. 613. 2 Leon. 291.

A few observations on the qualification required to enable a person to kill game, may, perhaps, be acceptable. There appears something extremely hard, and even inconsistent, in the idea of £100 per annum in landed property being a sufficient qualification, whilst £100,000 per annum, drawn from the funds, will not answer the same purpose. It is absolutely ridiculous, in the present state of things, to assert, that because a man's property is vested in the funds, he has not thus, in justice, a right to share a diversion, to which another person is entitled, owing to the accidental circumstance of the property of the latter being vested in land. A contracted bigot may say, that because the person destitute of lands does not *evidently* contribute to the support of the game, he has not therefore a right to kill it. But if the man of funded property does not, at first sight, appear to contribute towards the support of the game, he does it virtually, in as great a degree as the other. It is the monied interest of the kingdom alone, that gives those strong sinews to commerce, and by thus opening a ready market to the landed interest, enables the landlord to procure an enormous rent for his ground, and consequently affords the tenant an oppor-



tunity of obtaining those exorbitant prices for his commodities, without which it would be impossible to pay his rent. The game laws certainly call aloud for revision: but of all the arbitrary statutes with which they abound, there is not one so unjust and oppressive as that of disqualifying the commercial part of the community from an amusement, innocent in its nature, and fraught with the blessings of health: particularly when it is considered that Great Britain, owing to her commerce, not only reigns mistress of the seas, but commands the greatest respect from all powers in the known world; take away her commerce, her meridian splendour would be eclipsed, and she would sink into insignificance and contempt among those very surrounding nations who are now compelled to regard her as the most powerful sovereign on the face of the earth.

Whether or not a person has a right to prove his own qualification, is a question which appears to me not finally settled. Most assuredly, whenever a man is summoned before a justice of the peace on this head, it is absolutely necessary for the plaintiff to prove the defendant not qualified before the justice can convict him. See *East. Tm. p. 639. the King v. Stone*. And from this it would appear as yet undecided. Lord Kenyon and Justice Grose gave their opinions, that it was indispensably necessary for the plaintiff to prove the defendant had not the qualification the law in this case required; Lawrence and Le Blanc contended that it was necessary for the defendant to shew he was qualified. Lord Kenyon closed his arguments as fol-

lows;—"If Lord Mansfield, Mr. Justice Dennison, and Mr. Justice Foster, thought that all this was necessary forty years ago, surely the length of time which has since elapsed, without their decision having been called in question, has not weakened, but rather confirmed the authority of it." The court, being equally divided, made no order.

I believe it is the general opinion, that in actions of *quaitam*, the defendant must shew he is qualified; this general opinion, however, does not absolutely convince me of its legality; and, at all events, I am certain it is no way consistent with the genuine spirit of the British constitution, according to which no man is bound to convict himself. It might be urged, perhaps, that it would in general be impossible, strictly speaking, to prove a man not qualified; this I am willing to allow, but still this paltry excuse is by no means a sufficient reason to evaporate the almost divine essence of that constitution, the genuine purity of which has been the admiration of the world. Many actions have been tried respecting qualification, wherein the defendant has voluntarily produced the necessary requisites for this purpose; but I know of none which have taken place of late years, where the defendant has refused to prove his qualification. It is very probable the opinion of the generality of the long-robed fraternity may be opposite to that here laid down, or some person surely would have been met with, obstinate enough to try it.

## TECHNICAL TERMS.

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A brace of pointers or set- ters	To raise or spring par- tridges
A leash of pointers or set- ters	A brace of quail
A couple of spaniels	A brace and a half of quail
A couple and a half of spa- niels	A bevey of quails
A brace of hares	To raise quails
A leash of hares	A brace of pheasants
To start or move a hare	A leash of pheasants
A brace of grouse	A ni (or nid) of pheasants
A leash of grouse	To push a pheasant
A pack of grouse	A couple of woodcocks
To raise grouse	A couple and a half of woodcocks
A brace of black game	A flight of woodcocks
A leash of black game	To flush a woodcock
A pack of black game	A couple of snipe
To raise a black cock or pack	A couple and a half of snipes
A brace and a half of par- tridges or birds	A wisp of snipe
A brace of partridges, or birds	To spring a snipe
A covey of partridges	A flock or team of wild ducks
	A gaggle of geese
	A wing of plover
	A trip of dottrell.

THE END.



RIGHT VENTRICLE

*[The page contains two columns of extremely faint, illegible handwritten text.]*

















